

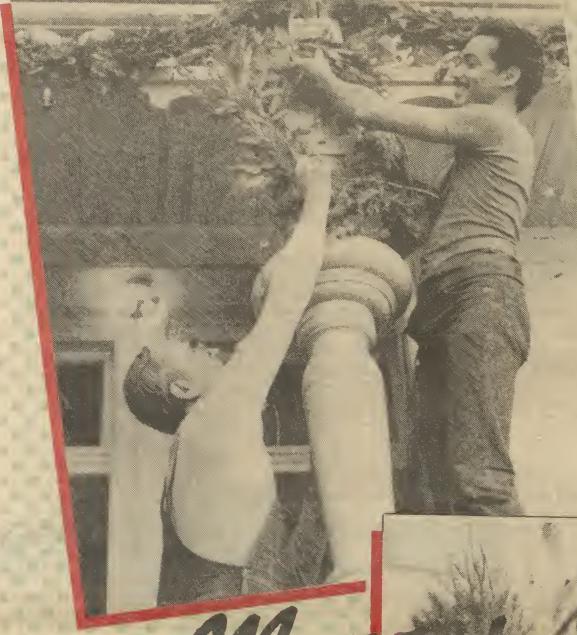
BAY AREA REPORTER

D.A.R.

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VOL. XIII NO. 51 DECEMBER 22, 1983



Chuck Forester New City Hall Gay Liaison

Mayor Picks City Planner, Management Consultant, and Highly Respected Gay Activist

by Paul Lorch

City Planning consultant Chuck Forester has been named the new Gay Liaison in the mayor's office.

Forester, 39, will replace Peter Nardoza, who leaves December 31 to take a top management position at SF International Airport.

Deputy Mayor Hadley Roff announced Forester's appointment Tuesday and said he will begin work January 3. Roff praised Forester as just the kind of person they were seeking, someone with expertise in city planning, planning department budgets, while also with the talents of a generalist. Roff said that the Gay liaison work would be another one of Forester's assignments, and a paramount one at that.

Since 1981 Forester has run Quarles Associates, a firm which provided consulting services in planning and management to business, nonprofit organizations, and government. Quarles' specialty was long-range planning in San Francisco. Prior to that Forester served as Assistant Director, then Director of Planning for the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

In this work Forester maintained the Regional Plan for 9

counties/101 cities and supervised a staff of 40. He headed up a report on the office industry and the high tech world of Silicon Valley. The report dealt with such things as potential growth, components of the industries, siting needs, and industry dynamics.

He also led studies on housing needs and transportation services in Santa Clara County. He dealt with environmental management plans, gentrification and displacement, and streamlining permit processing.

From 1972 to 1976 Forester was a top staffer in the Office of the Mayor. He worked under both Mayors Alioto and Moscone. He left City Hall early in the Moscone administration. He began government work as an associate planner and later served as Special Assistant to the Director of Community Development (1973-1975). When he left government service in 1976,

he was the Director of the Mayor's Clearinghouse. He worked with the Office of Community Development and was the budget go-between on federal and state funds with departments and commissions of city government.

Forester lives with his lover of six years, Michael Schoch. Schoch is a landscaper and is remembered as Toad Hall's most popular bartender in the early 1970's. The couple own a home on Fulton Street in the Western Addition and have a cabin in the wilds of Sonoma County.

Forester has a 12-year-old son, and has worked as campaign manager for supervisor candidate Dave Wharton. He took his BA from Dartmouth in 1966 and an MA in City Planning in 1968 from the University of Pennsylvania.

Earlier this year Forester began a column in the *Bay Area*



Chuck Forester, new City Hall Gay Liaison.

Reporter on planning needs, problems, and issues as they relate to the Gay community. His most recent piece was on the past and future of South of Market.

Forester is a member of both the Alice B. Toklas and Stonewall Gay Democratic Clubs. He was also active in Louise Renne's campaign.

Forester told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he has many concerns that pertain to the Gay community. "I don't want to see it torn apart by political infighting. I want to see us work together more." Forester stressed he did not mean to say everyone should be the same, but that

we should draw upon our extreme diversity to solve problems.

Forester also feels that the Gay community should "develop our political skills more."

He said he was excited by the prospects of his new job and sees it as a great honor to be singled out as the Gay liaison for the city of San Francisco and the most politically open and active Gay community in the nation.

Forester said he told Mayor Feinstein, "As the Gay community has been very good to me — in my coming out, in my lifestyle — if I can repay it in some small way, I'll be a very happy man."

2nd Vote

Oakland Goes for Gay Rights 9-0

No Opposition Surfaces; Activists Surprised

by John Wetzel

In a quick, virtually unchallenged roll-call on Tuesday, Oakland legislators handed over one of the state's toughest Gay rights bills on record. Lesbians, Gays, and supporters on hand gave a rousing round of applause. "No opposition," declared Mayor Lionel Wilson preceding the 9-0 vote.

Oakland will become the forty-third city in the United States to adopt such a measure.

The equal opportunity clause guarantees equitable housing practices, employment prac-

tices, and distribution of city and city-supported services within the city of Oakland.

Bill sponsor Marge Gibson commented, "The Gay members of our community I met are salt-of-the-earth, concerned, mostly young people. The idea that they should be discriminated against for a different pattern of living . . . seemed so ridiculous."

Nearly forty supporters attended the council meeting in downtown Oakland; the council accommodated them by voting early on in the evening. Said Joe Acanfora, co-chair of the bill's lobbying committee, "We're very excited. It's a great day for the Gay community."

East Bay activists hope the passage of the Oakland bill will drum up regional support for California Assembly Bill 1, a similar statewide measure. At least one East Bay senate vote on AB-1 remains uncommitted (Hayward's Senator Bill Lockyer).

The Oakland ordinance will probably draw most attention to Oakland though, a city seen both as conservative and liberal.

According to the bill's author, attorney Matt Coles, the legislation is much more clear-cut than its San Francisco equivalent, which Coles says contains "loose language." Said Gibson, "Oakland has always taken the lead in what I would call humane legislation."

Still, what startled most proponents was the ease with which the council approved the measure, and how little the measure was changed during passage. Coles described the ordinance as "a very tough law" which "has passed intact from when it was first introduced."

Last week Gibson moved to introduce the bill but prevented a final vote at that time because of a process rule.

The interim week was described by Gibson as being "quiet," although proponents had anticipated a certain amount of opposition from con-

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Falwell Tells UCLA of Moral Decay in America

Rev. Jerry Falwell, the Moral Majority's Baptist leader, told a crowd of 1,500 on the UCLA campus last week that he had confidence that conservative youth will reject the moral decay in America. Hecklers were persistent but the minister persevered as he charged that materialism and moral permissiveness were rampant in the "dark ages" of the '50s and '60s. But the worst was in the '70s when moral decay set in.

That decay, he pleaded, resulted because of the social acceptance of homosexuals and their "live-in" lifestyles, legal abortions ("biological hol-

ocaust"), pornography, divorce, venereal disease, and "other ills and sins."

Falwell, whose speech was sponsored by the ultra-Right "Young Americans for Freedom" and the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, said there was hope, however, in the '80s and '90s because "young people are more conservative than their parents. There is a real renaissance in politics and spiritual matters."

Catcalls and shouting frequently interrupted the volatile speaker. Security guards checked student backpacks.

come a viable political voice in Berkeley, Oakland, and Hayward, and have contacted officials in all levels of government. That may be a factor in the response we're getting."

"I have to give a lot of credit to Marge," said lobby co-chair Susan Ganz; "she has been the leader in the council on our behalf." Said Gibson, "You do what's right."

The EBL/GDC is pushing ahead on a domestic partners ordinance in Berkeley, and East Bay lobbying for AB-1.

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Newspaper Decoy Survey Stirs Community

Threat of Sending in Minors Ires Bar Owners and Law Enforcement Agencies

by Allen White

Bar owners and workers throughout San Francisco this week reacted angrily to a survey being conducted jointly by *The Sentinel* newspaper and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. As part of the survey, the paper announced plans in their December 8 issue to test bars with a person "obviously" under the legal drinking age.

Gary Schweikhart, editor of the biweekly, revealed to the *Bay Area Reporter* that during the first night of the survey an underage person was actually taken into the bars. With Schweikhart and the underage person were Sister Boom Boom, Sister Nocturnal Submission, Sister Sadie Sadie, Sister Vicious Power-Hungry Bitch, George Harcus, and *Sentinel* classified ad salesperson Ron White.

The Tavern Guild of San Francisco, the largest association of Gay bar owners, on learning of the decoy plan circulated a response from its president, Russell Glenn, sent to *Sentinel* publisher Bill Beardemphl. Glenn stated he was "appalled" at the article. Complained Glenn, "As to the admission of single women, drags, persons in leather, etc., I feel that this is up to the policy of the establishment. However, I am deeply displeased with the projected continuation of this survey to include attempts to bring minors into our bars."

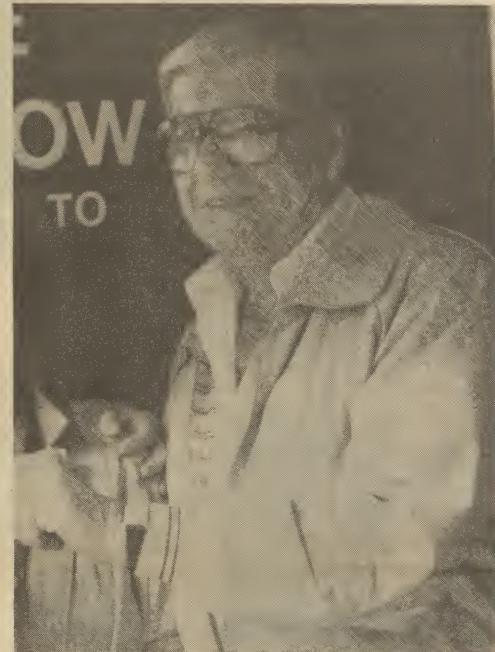
The Tavern Guild officer continued, "I wonder the reasoning behind this project. Could it be the lack of Gay bar and restaurant advertising currently in your (*The Sentinel's*) paper?"

He concluded his response to the publisher, "I sincerely hope you will reconsider this survey, or hope you are prepared to face any possible consequences by the bars affected." The implications were both criminal and civil.

"Test or no test, the people are liable," said Manuel Espinoza, the Assistant Administrator of Regulatory Matters for the Alcoholic Beverage Control. In his Sacramento office, Espinoza was cautiously annoyed at the prospects of decoys being sent into bars. He said that, in fact, underage persons are sent into bars by some local law enforcement agencies. Among those cities are San Anselmo, Concord, and Oakland.

The ABC official said that when decoys are used, they are under very strict controls. He pointedly stated that the Alcoholic Beverage Control board never uses decoys.

Espinosa commented that the use of decoys by a Gay newspaper was "certainly a first."



Tavern Guild President Russ Glenn of the White Swallow won't have newspaper sending in minors to buy drinks. (Photo: Rink)

of changing. Bob Shore, owner of the Starlight Room on Market Street, said, "Let them go ahead and try and make fools of themselves." "I don't know of any bar owner," he said, "who is going to put their business in jeopardy for the sale of a drink to a minor."

The *Sentinel* story implied that the management of the Pendulum were amused by the test.

They weren't! Bartender Bobby Pace said, "We have increased our security because we don't know what they might try to pull next."

Now, two weeks after the publishing of the edition, the editor is saying that he wanted a person who only "looked" underage and not a person who was, in fact, a minor. When asked what he was trying to prove with only "looking" underage, he said that they were interested in comparing the reaction at bars by various members of the Gay community.

Schweikhart insisted to the *Bay Area Reporter* that he thinks the survey is valid and he has "every intention of continuing."

One person who might argue that point is George Banda. Banda is a part owner of *The Sentinel*. He is also the owner of the Club Dori and a former president of the Tavern Guild of San Francisco. Banda has also owned other Gay bars and restaurants over the years in San Francisco. Banda said, "The survey was a big mistake." Relating to the issue of minors being used as decoys, he said, "It is not going to happen."

"When I saw the article," Banda said, "the back of my skull went up." "There has been a stir," he said, "and rightfully so."

In direct conflict to the paper's co-owner, Schweikhart said, "Let the chips fall where they may." "I may be stupid," he continued, "but I don't care what people think. I have no intention of backing down." Finalizing his position the editor said, "I would rather leave than buckle down to the pressure."

A minor trying to entrap a bar will be prosecuted.

— DA Arlo Smith

The local San Francisco ABC office has received several calls of complaint regarding the test.

District Attorney Arlo Smith was very much disturbed by the concept of sending minors into bars for whatever the reason. Smith said there is no question that the law will fall upon any person who attempts to entrap a bar into breaking the law.

DA Arlo Smith and ABC administrator Manuel Espinoza said that a minor going into a bar is against the law. Both said that if they get caught they will be prosecuted.

Tavern Guild President Glenn is also the owner of a bar, the White Swallow on Polk Street. He said he runs a legal business and he has no intention

Bars across San Francisco will be putting the biweekly to a test of their own today. Many have stated that they simply will not allow a newspaper that is out to have them break the law to be distributed at their place of business.

All the same, editor Schweikhart said that the furor surrounding the survey was "a tempest in a teapot."

He said in explanation there had been an omission when the type was set. He claims the word "looked" was left out of the sentence. The questionable sentence in Schweikhart's story is: "However, we will be adding two more test categories: a Black man alone and a person obviously under the legal drinking age."

HINKLE on WHITE

Author Writes What Murderer 'Wrote'

by George Mendenhall

"I'm not going to be forced out of San Francisco by splinter groups of radicals and social deviates," Dan White wrote in his 1977 campaign brochure when he ran for supervisor. Later, when he was accused of being anti-Gay, the elected official denied that he meant homosexuals. In the December *California* magazine, SF *Chronicle* columnist Warren Hinkle casts new light and new shadows on the extent of White's homophobia.



COLUMNIST Warren Hinkle writes White's autobiography. (Photo: Rink)

Harvey Milk told this reporter after White's election, "Oh, he is coming around. Don't count him out. Dan and I are talking about a softball game between his District Eight and the Gay community." Later, Milk soured on White and urged Mayor George Moscone to not re-appoint him when White resigned. Moscone agreed and White killed both men. Was the murderer's homophobia a major reason — maybe the only reason — for the crimes? The theory was not used by the prosecution in the trial.

White's election victory party included an impromptu dance initiated by White — in which the victor danced with a male in an effeminate, stereotyped mocking of the Gay male. However, White apparently tried to "understand" the Gay lifestyle in talks with Milk, but evidently he was a troubled person in many ways and he could not adjust to the existence of Gay people.

Hinkle wrote "The Autobiography of Dan White (better than he could have written it himself)." Using "portions of a manuscript" apparently written by White in prison that have come into my possession" the author writes in the first person — as if he were White himself. Hinkle adds, "If the document is a fake, it is a good one."

SUPER-MASCULINE IMAGE

White evidently thinks of himself as a traditionally very moral and masculine man. He spent considerable time building up his trim body to muscular proportions, entered the Golden Gloves competition as a boxer, played baseball, and became both a policeman and a fireman. White was raised as an Irish Roman Catholic — with very strong feelings about morality. He took the pledge as a child not

to drink until he was 21 or ever to see a movie condemned by the Catholic Legion of Decency.

Hinkle explains that White had eight brothers and sisters when his father died of cancer in 1963. He was only 17 then. His mother remarried a man with eight children — now there were 17 children . . . Were his attitudes developing then about Gay people? Hinkle has White saying, "The people in my neighborhood felt that Gays made things even harder for big families because they don't have any children to worry about and several of them can put their salaries together and pay more rent than a single family, and this has the effect of driving up prices."

GOING TOO FAR

"Gays in San Francisco have been attempting to make it an article of faith that I'm anti-Gay," Hinkle has White claiming. "That simply is not true. What I think is that you do have to draw the line somewhere. For me, six-foot penises on a float in a parade where children can see them is somewhere to draw the line . . . The problem with Gays is that they don't know when to stop pushing . . ."

White was chair of the Board of Supervisors' committee that controlled street closings for special community events. He opposed closing streets for Gay events because they involved "nudity and other crude activities." The chair was the lone "No" vote. Hinkle has White concluding that there was too much Gay Power; the supervisor was disturbed by the fact that the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade got \$6,700 from the city while the annual Veterans Parade got only \$2,500.

HARVEY MILK

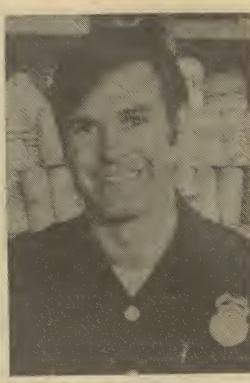
Hinkle has White calling Supervisor Harvey Milk "the

most dangerous Gay leader . . . manipulative and deceitful, all the while wearing a smiling face." White was upset because he felt that he had Milk's vote to reject a proposed facility for mentally disturbed children in White's district. When the vote was taken, Milk voted for the center and it passed 6-5. White felt Milk had betrayed him. They rarely spoke after that vote. (Ironically, White's second child was to be born mentally retarded.)

Moscone is allegedly accused by White of "setting himself up as king and, in return for delivering the Gay vote, Harvey Milk would be queen. They thought they could control the town together." The man who was later to murder both men was disturbed by several factors:

"They (Gay people) took over San Francisco district by district," White says in the Hinkle piece. "The old neighborhoods are gone. Rents skyrocket when Gays move in, and butchers and bakers and shoe-repair men who have been there for decades are shut down. And taking their places are Gay businesses selling incense and leather pants with holes cut where the crotch should be."

There is little question that White was part of the element that opposed Police Chief Charles Gain during his regime. Gain openly welcomed Gay peo-



Dan White, super macho, will be a free man in two weeks.

ple to become officers and encouraged their recruitment.

Hinkle says White was unhappy over Gain's repainting police cars baby-blue and "ordered his men not to interfere with Gays openly engaging in sexual conduct in the streets." CBS-TV showed that "Gays had gotten out of hand in San Francisco," White says. "I found it ironic that I was in jail because I had

fought against that."

STONE HOMOPHOBIE

Hinkle quotes Milk as telling political consultant Jack Davis, "White is a stone homophobe. He's dangerous," and says the Gay supervisor told friends that White "is a closet case . . . and there's nothing more dangerous than a closet case, someone fighting that inside of himself. He's that much more hostile to anyone who is open." How much White knew of Milk's observations about him is not revealed.

The murderer, due to be released on January 6, 1984, remains a mystery in many ways. A pending movie and several books on his life will hopefully answer more questions about Dan White.

One explanation of what White might have been about is discussed by Gary Yoes, who was an early supporter of White. According to Hinkle, Yoes left the White campaign because he felt White was exploiting fears about Blacks and Gays. Yoes now believes "his ultimate goal was to build a mass White reactionary political movement." ■

Health Workers Organize for Norman

"Health Workers for Pat Norman for Supervisor" will hold an organizing meeting on Sunday, January 15, at 2 p.m. in San Francisco. For further information, contact Kate Ullman at (415) 641-8781.

Pat Norman, a Lesbian health care administrator spe-

cializing in development of programs and services responding to the needs of women and minorities, earlier this year declared her intent to run for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1984. Norman has special expertise in provision of services to ethnic and sexual minorities and to young people. ■

NAMBLA Film Show

NAMBLA, the North American Man-Boy Love Association, will hold a film festival on Saturday and Sunday, January 28-29, from noon until 10 p.m., at the Pride Center. Price per ticket is

\$3. Some of the films planned are *Abuse*, *Death in Venice*, *You Are Not Alone*, and *The Deputy*.

For further information, contact NAMBLA, 537 Jones St., #8418, San Francisco, CA 94102. ■

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Holiday Keeps Community Hopping

by Allen White

"Make the yuletide Gay" goes the song and it certainly is happening this Christmas season in San Francisco.

Last Friday several Gay bars began a roundup of presents for people with AIDS at San Francisco General Hospital. In the Tenderloin, people started out at six in the morning at the Kokpit. People began arriving with toothpaste, razors, and other essentials. As they began to fill a large wrapped box they were given complimentary drinks. Prizes were given away and people came in throughout the morning.

Later in the day the party moved to the Pendulum in the Castro. The bar started the party off by donating \$100 to help the patients at the hospital. Bobby Pace directed a staff of people at the bar as they filled up two big boxes during the weekend.

Saturday afternoon the party moved to the New Bell on Polk Street. Mark Fries, Tony Valentine, and Lee-ona were gathering in the presents. The New Bell Saloon donated \$250 in cash. In addition, the Tavern Guild added another \$100. At the conclusion of the day there were four big boxes filled with presents and almost \$500 in cash.

Tuesday, representatives from the bars got together and delivered the presents.

Throughout the week there have been parties all over the city. Earlier this month the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club held their party at the home of Jerry Seimus on 17th Street. Last Saturday night the Alice B. Toklas club celebrated the holidays at the home of Supervisor Richard Hongisto.

Down in the Folsom area B.A.R. columnist Karl Stewart was hosting a "Country Christmas" party for those folk running hard to be the next Emperor and Empress of San Francisco.

Last Sunday afternoon several thousand people jammed Grace Cathedral for their annual Christmas concert. Later that day almost two thousand people gathered at Nourse Auditorium for the delightful "Now We Sing With Hearts Aglow." The show featured the Gay Men's Chorus, the Gay/Lesbian Chorus, and the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band. It has become a tradition in San Francisco's Gay community. At the evening's conclusion, the crowd remained after the show to sing Christmas carols. The show, with an expensive seat priced at only \$10, will be repeated Christmas Eve starting at 7:30.

Dignity's Christmas Eve Mass begins at 11:30 p.m. at St. Francis Lutheran Church. The church invited the Gay Catholic organization to hold its Christmas Eve presentation as a gift to the Gay community. The church is at 152 Church Street, directly across from Safeway, north of Market.

As the Christmas merriment continues through the week, Chaps in the Folsom area presents Christmas with the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band. It starts tonight (Thursday) at 9:30 and \$1 gets you in.

Last night Christmas crashed head-on into "Dynasty" at many bars. Febe's was jammed with people munching on hot dogs and Christmas goodies. There was a wild response as Blake Carrington and Krystle Carrington announced their engagement at a Denver charity ball. Last night was the night when Henry Kissinger had his encounter with Alexis Carrington Colby.

At the corner of 18th and Castro the huge Christmas tree at Hibernia Beach dominated the area. Saturday Lea DeLaria, her lover Jeanine Strobel, and



Liz Hongisto and her new baby host Alice Demos' Christmas party. (Photo: Rink)



Bob Cramer and crew at his Castro Country Florist. (Photo: Rink)



Pendulum's bartender Bobby Pace looks on as a patron contributes to Ward 5B Christmas. (Photo: Rink)

an assortment of B.A.R. staff were gathered watching and playing Santa Claus.

It is a very special Christmas in a very special city. Gay men

and Lesbians are definitely in the spirit of celebrating. In spite of a killer health crisis, this 1983 people are still drinking, singing, laughing, and giving at this Yuletide season. ■



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VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

Sending Up the Season

Another Christmas comes close — as long as it doesn't come too close. And like so many Gay people, I'm glad once Christmas gets behind me.

Part of that is that like so many other Gays I help create it, earn a living off it, and look forward to a January in St. Thomas or Acapulco. Moreover, Christmas is not one of our holidays; it is for the family. All one has to do is return home for the holidays amid a throng of greedy, grabbing, and grouchy nieces and nephews — and all one can think of is, escape. Then we realize our Christmas returns home are an attempt to recapture our own childhood joy and excitement. You yourself end up as one more adult — sort of in the way — helping your own overworked mother gathering up scattered ribbons, torn wrapping paper, already broken parts of toys, and separating Tammy, who has just bashed cousin Tommy over the head with her 12-pound doll which he had just been playing with, shooting rubber darts up its shirt, riding bareback around the electric train set on Aunt Tammy senior's 122-pound Saint Bernard.



(Photo: Kink)

What's worse, you've been cold to the bone marrow from the moment you stepped off the plane. You kick yourself for not borrowing underwear before you left. And you know what will get started if you try to borrow a pair from an older brother or ask your mother to spare a pair of dad's

I have my personal holiday peccadilloes. I hate Christmas shopping. It makes me feel I'm engaging in some sort of pagan orgy. Too many adults being greedy, grabbing, and grouchy. I don't like being overcharged for merchandise I can't imagine myself or anyone else having any use for. Giving at Christmas seems at times a lot easier than receiving. You open a package — thunderstruck with bewilderment — "What in God's name is this; what will I ever do with it?" Staring across the room is an expectant smile waiting to be stroked. And you hear yourself saying, "Thank you so much . . . just what I wanted . . . needed . . . had heard good things about . . ."

I full well realize that part of my crankiness stems from my lack of faith in what Christmas heralds. I think it's an okay idea to recall the birth of a wonderful man — as I would a George Washington or an Abe Lincoln or a Mahatma Gandhi.

(Continued on next page)

B.A.R.

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LETTERS

On Sinful Tips

★ Since last week's letter as to tipping bath club attendants, I have been approached by innumerable bath house "contacts" who, wishing to set the record straight, have pressed on me gifts, money, and even introductions to their best men as recompense for whatever "thing of value" might have passed between us.

Now I would like to set the record straight! In a closely knit social structure such as exists around those of us who are "profoundly active," it behooves us to tip each and every person we deal with or wish to deal with. For us, however, money is not an important medium — since money cannot purchase relationship — and it is only through right relationship that any true value, can pass between individuals.

As to those who demand monetary restitution for their hazzardous interactions with others, such people have a long way to go; why begrudge them a few pennies?

Sin early!

Steve Perkins
San Francisco

P.S. Personal to Paul Lorch: The last time we met on Castro Street some two weeks ago I happened to toss a handful of pennies at your feet. It was done without reference to the above letter.



(Photo: Rink)

Anti Catholic

★ I was surprised at the degree of your anti-catholic prejudice revealed in your response to Rev. Tony McGuire and Randy Schell. In re your question about sex acts, I suspect Tony McGuire would say the same as most theologians, pastors, philosophers, psychologists and teachers of wisdom, gay or straight. Sex outside a caring relationship in which the whole person is valued is diminished in meaning, may cheapen one's sense of dignity and often results in alienation and depersonalization. While we can understand how an intolerant, oppressive homophobic culture (including churches) contributes to relationship difficulties, surely you would agree that to focus on genitals instead of people is both a result of and contributes to homophobia and is an indication of diminished capacity for full human relationships. Pornography can be dangerous to men as well as women.

If you truly haven't met a Roman Catholic priest whom you could like, then my advice is to examine your own perceptual abilities. You're missing out on some very good, courageous, justice-seeking people, many of whom are your gay brothers.

Ronald D. Lee
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: My anti-catholic sentiments are not prejudice; they are exclusively post-judice. My perceptual abilities are in good working order. I've met some bad priests who were good humans, and all too many good priests who were bad humans.

How would Tony McGuire know anything about sex. He hasn't had any, and if he has every time it's a mortal sin, one that would condemn him to everlasting fires of hell.

P. Lorch

Big Sister

★ As we have been prewarned by Orwell's 1984, "big brother is watching" epic, let us not forget that in this era of women's liberation and equal rights, big brother could be interpreted as a sexist assumption. We should realize that equality assumes equal responsibility and thus the potential of a big sister is just as much a danger.

When it comes to this, there is no safe sex.

John D. Donna
San Francisco

Needs Bay Area Reporter for Contact

★ I am writing from the Federal Prison Camp in Boron, California (approximately 15 miles from Edwards Air Force Base). I have been incarcerated for a violation of a federal law. I am a member of the gay community and reside in San Francisco. This letter is written on behalf of myself and the other gay men incarcerated here.

Being gay and placed in this type of environment is mentally and emotionally distressing. While in here, one must change his lifestyle in order to adjust to this environment. There are approximately twenty gay men completing their federal sentences here at Boron. We have tried to help one another survive this terrible nightmare and experience. I have fought for "Gay Rights" in the Federal Prison System, but have lost an uphill battle. Most of us try to keep in close contact with the gay community in San Francisco and Los Angeles. It helps to know that others still care about us, even though we are classified as a criminal and placed in here.

It is with this purpose that I write asking if you could furnish the gay men incarcerated here with leftover or outdated copies of the *Bay Area Reporter*. If this would be possible, it would really be a special treat to all of us. If only you knew how it is to be away from our lifestyle and not to be able to keep up-to-date on news items. We are allowed to receive newspapers and other donated publications by mail, only if they are addressed directly to an individual. If you see that this request won't be an added expense or burden, you can mail any copy directly to me and I will see that it is distributed for all to see and read. I cannot tell you how much all of us will appreciate your sending the *Bay Area Reporter* here. Many of us read the newspaper when we were at home and enjoyed it greatly. It will certainly help to make us feel we are still a part of the gay community.

Once again, if you are able to furnish us with the *Bay Area Reporter*, my sincere thanks on behalf of everyone here to you and your fine staff. All of us are looking forward to seeing a copy of the newspaper. Best wishes for an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

Michael L. Staup #73709-011
Federal Prison Camp
P.O. Box 500, Unit 5-2A
Boron, CA 93516

Thin Skinned

★ Now that we're spending so much time demanding more money for AIDS research from the Feds, maybe it's time we demand more common courtesy from our fellow faggots.

Here are some typical examples of just one day of rudeness my staff and I have gotten from our Gay male brethren . . .

- 1) A client (who knows me) came in with a friend. He didn't say hi. When I said hello he just glared at me and said something about lampshades to his friend. The next time he comes in alone, he'll be very friendly. He's so afraid I'll steal his trick that he won't even talk.
- 2) We go out of our way to handle Gay community inquiry calls, even though it's not our job. One guy called asking about a leather shop south of Market. After much effort in finding a listing for it, he just hung up in my employee's ear. Not even a simple thank you.
- 3) A new client signed on with us. He wrote a letter and enclosed a biography. The cover letter started out, "I try to be as pleasant as I possibly can and only ask that you try to do the same." Is this any way to start a business relationship? When he came to sign up he broke the ice by saying, "I'm only using your services because (employee) was so nice." It made the rest of us feel like fools.

This is a typical day's worth of typical Gay male attitude. Sometimes it makes us feel like leaving the City and moving to friendlier (and less-Gay) surroundings.

I think it's time to put our own house in order. I think the most striking comment I have heard yet was from a middle-aged non-Gay man who stopped me asking to change a dollar bill. He told me that he asked many people on Castro, but that nobody would even look at him. He said, "I don't care anymore about this AIDS thing. If it hits the Gay guys I just don't care. They're always so rude to me this should be a dose of their own medicine."

David Kaye
San Francisco

Mondale on Gays?

★ The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported on December 3rd that Walter Mondale (on a campaign swing through the Bay Area) promised if elected President he would support Federal anti-discrimination protection for gays.

But fearing that support of gay rights might backfire on him in the South and in blue-collar areas, Mondale is also reported to have told political allies, "The trick is to say to you're against discrimination without endorsing their life-style" (*Atlantic Monthly*, Jan. 1983).

Can you imagine Mondale offering the same advice on Blacks, Hispanics, or other minorities? Just gays. Well, I'm not too thrilled with your life-style either, Fritz.

John Hummel
San Francisco

Note: This letter was also sent to the *San Francisco Chronicle* in early December. The letter was never printed.

Look Alike

★ To all things there comes a time. It's time for me to turn you on to one of San Francisco's secret treasures: The popcorn lady at the Regency III Theatre. I swear by all that's still holy to me she's a dead ringer for John Gielgud! His twin sister — I swear!

Check it out! Tell your friends! One of life's living art treasures.

Gloria Goodqueen
San Francisco

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VIEWPOINT

(Continued from previous page)

But that the Son of God — a God Himself — was born into this world some two thousand years ago — is meaningless to me. If I did have faith, I would be gaily whirling in a paroxysm of joy to the world. Add to this I know that pulpit thumping crowd, that gold-braided vestment team with their candelabras and incense, would have me strung up or string me up themselves had they the civil power they had a short hundred years ago. My tootsies retain their chill at spirited Christmastes.

I look at Christmas in a Gay way. I look agog at the color, delicacy, and abandon of a 4-foot poinsettia. I see Christmas wreaths that are Gay creative. I see Gay people wantonly share their table, their culinary feasts (and disasters), their liquor and nose-candy supply. This Gay humanity is comradeship in creativity, in beauty corralled for an all-too-brief stay, it is more than enough.

I become very Christmassy. Which to me means becoming very, very full. When I share with hundreds of other Gay men and women, the Gay Men's Chorus singing their Christmas hearts aglow.

With those soaring notes my eyes mist over to a brimful where I can barely see anyone on stage.

At this moment my cup runneth over. The world is at peace and goodwill toward men prevails. For they are all about me.

This is my family. I am truly at home. Our gifts are each other. They give Gay music, the best they have to offer. I give Gay words, the best I have to offer.

Paul Lorch

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LETTERS

Francophones

Dan White Thoughts

★ It's time to thank you again. The *B.A.R.* has published two letters regarding our monthly French Language Evenings. The letters apparently reached a lot of people. The *soirees francaises* have now been meeting for more than a year and a half, and more than a hundred lesbians and gay men have participated. We had visitors from Switzerland, Quebec, France, Germany, Gambia and Algeria as well as from all over the United States.

This letter is to notify the community of Francophones that I am moving once again and also to extend a warm invitation to everyone who may be interested in participating. You are very welcome to join us. There is no fee. Just bring along a beverage and, if you wish, an *hors d'oeuvre*. The groups are held on the first Friday of each month. We begin at 8 PM and usually end around midnight. You can drop by for a few minutes or several hours. It is a warm and casual evening. And you need not be fluent in French — if you are willing to be challenged. Give me a call if you have any questions.

The new address: 66 Levant Street (near Buena Vista Park, States Street and Roosevelt). The phone number: (415) 552-6181.

Best wishes to the *B.A.R.* for continued success in 1984. And thank you for giving us the forum to announce this to the community. If attendance is a good indication, the *soirees francaises* are a very welcome addition to our city's vital and varied cultural life.

Merci aussi à tout le monde qui assistait pendant 1983. Je vous souhaite une très bonne nouvelle année! Vous êtes toujours bienvenues chez nous. La prochaine réunion aura lieu le 6 Janvier. Félicitons-nous ensemble le début de 1984.

Robert McLean Thompson
San Francisco

In the Stars

★ Why everybody makes such a big deal of sex I'll never know. Where I come from (another planet it appears) people have sex in lieu of — and in the same reference — as you people shake hands.

I guess it just boils down to the difference between the stars "Take me to the palace of your soul" head space vs. that of the peasants "Glad to know ya," guilt-ridden credo.

Steve Perkins
San Francisco

Levy to Edwards

★ I would like to thank Thomas M. Edwards, for keeping me intellectually honest. Whenever I read a letter like his of December 12 cynical rambling ("Bumper Sticking"); after I get over my initial impulse to puke, I re-examine my own standards and beliefs.

Believing he isn't blatantly anti-feminist is like believing that I don't like men (or in chocolate road apples!).

H. Levy
San Francisco

New Worker at Mrs. Fields

★ I must say that I found your article entitled "Mrs. Fields Sifts Out Gay Workers" very one-sided and downright unfair. Why should *unsubstantiated* allegations from a lone, disgruntled, ex-employee receive front page headlines?

By coincidence, I saw your article two hours before an interview with Mrs. Fields Cookies. I almost canceled the interview for fear of discrimination, but I decided to judge the company for myself.

The interviewer, Sue Linder, was very professional and went out of her way to make me feel at ease. She showed no concern or even curiosity about my sexual preference and hired me on the spot as Assistant Manager for the second busiest store in the chain.

I have seen no evidence of discrimination in the short time I've been with the company. In fact, the racial mix of employees and management is so diverse it should make most of the businesses that advertise in your paper hide their lily white faces in shame. There are four assistant managers at our store. Two are men; two are women. Half are non-Caucasian. One of the four is gay as well.

I am impressed with the company in their treatment of people as individuals. An employee there faces no criticism other than her/his capacity to grow.

How many unemployed gays do you think were deterred from applying to a progressive and profit-sharing company and therefore are spending this holiday season in worry and frustration due to your alarmist reporting?

Jeffrey Black
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: What good you have found might well have been a result of the story's sounding an alarm. We are happy to pass it on to our readers as we did with Debbie Fields own letter last issue. What you have not found out is that the criticisms of the ex-employee of our story were false in his case. He has taken them into a court of law, which will determine their validity. All that happens to be news.

P. Lorch

★ In a few weeks, Dan White will be set free from his "country club" incarceration. It's been a tough 5 years for the convicted killer of George Moscone and Harvey Milk.

Gay community leaders plan to protest the lawful release of former supervisor White. Few straight people really give a shit about whether White gets out or not, or whether he is permitted to return here to San Francisco or San Diego. Why are we being urged to protest something so relatively unimportant? Gay community leaders are suffering from a drop in "enthusiasm" in their constituency. You could see from the small crowd that stayed around to hear the 17 talking heads at City Hall the night of the 5th annual march . . . their ratings are down. If this were television, they'd have been cancelled ages ago.

If Gay people really want to send a message to the rest of the population of this City, then they're going to have to be a hell of a lot more imaginative than the leadership has been.

Some reading this letter must think that it was written by another crazed queen who enjoys seeing his name in the paper. Sorry to disappoint all those who think so, but the writer is someone who was very close to Milk, who in fact was in the office when White came in and murdered him. I heard the screams and the shots, and found the body . . . scenes I'll not forget. I lost my job as an airline pilot because the Texas-based outfit couldn't come to grips with my sexuality. Guilt by association. Shades of Joe McCarthy.

It goes on. Randy Shilts' book about Harvey, launched his career as a high paid journalist with one of the city's dailies. Congratulations, and god speed. I personally was heartbroken by the book. I hadn't suffered that much disappointment since I was kid and discovered that Santa Clause and the Easter Bunny were fakes. I guess I've always put too much faith in what turn out to be fairy tales.

I've concluded that the best way to deal with my memories of five years working for Harvey is to relegate them to the "ancient history" file. It's over and done with, that's that! But, what about Dan White, and all those folks who think that if White can get away with murdering a flag leader, it must be Okay! Well, face it folks . . . the only way to deal with that mentality is to talk to them in their own language. The proposal to stop working for fifteen minutes on the 6th of January is going to have them rolling on the floor, laughing. The most impactful thing that could take place on Friday the 6th of January would be for every Gay person that could afford it, to go out and buy a handgun. Plain and simple. The message is perfectly legal and perfectly straightforward.

It will never happen; such a radical idea will never be accepted by our sensitive and politically correct leadership . . . no more than Harvey was before he was elected.

And so it goes.

Carl H. Carlson
San Francisco

The Director Speaks

★ On behalf of the SF AIDS Foundation, I would like to commend you on your prompt reporting of the efforts of the Task Force to Review the Davies Hall AIDS/KS Fundraising Benefit" (12/15/83).

We of the local Foundation were pleased to see that you took such an instrumental role in educating the community in clearing the name of our sister organization, the National AIDS Foundation. Whenever charges of malfeasance are leveled at an organization, it seems that those charges become front page news and many critical remarks are made. We applaud your journalistic professionalism in informing the community that those comments and criticisms are not applicable to the National AIDS Foundation and the Debbie Reynolds fundraiser, and that \$38,000 is in process of being distributed to benefit AIDS programs and research.

Your article left one item in need of clarification, however. Two separate Foundations currently exist in San Francisco to deal with education and information dissemination surrounding the AIDS epidemic. The National AIDS Foundation (which sponsored the Debbie Reynolds fundraiser) is responsible for outreach efforts beyond California. The San Francisco AIDS Foundation is responsible for local and Northern California education and direct services to people with AIDS. The SF AIDS Foundation has conducted (and will continue to conduct) local fundraisers in order to support our educational and social services functions in San Francisco. We of the SF AIDS Foundation depend greatly on local fundraising efforts, the National AIDS Foundation does not.

Again, thank you for your coverage of the clearing of the National AIDS Foundation's name. In the same vein, thank you for your continued coverage of the AIDS epidemic and the efforts of the local SF AIDS Foundation.

Rick Crane
Executive Director
SF AIDS Foundation

LETTERS

Prison Pen Pals

The Bay Area Reporter has not screened any of these correspondents. While we think it a good idea to keep lines open to these inmates, we do not wish any of our readers to be exploited. We suggest anyone who writes not to send money, not to get emotionally involved, nor to make promises on places to stay, etc.

Keep in mind some of those men are in maximum security prisons. They didn't get there for jaywalking. All the same, some are good people; some are not.

33 Year Old Pisces

* I am a first-time inmate in the Florida penal system for fourteen months because of a rather stupid non-violent deed. I have about six to eight more months to do, thank goodness. I am writing to you for several reasons. One is, is it possible you could put my name and address in your newspaper? Or perhaps you could send me a copy of a gay newsletter in the Frisco area. Another reason, I just wanted to write someone whom I could relate to, so I decided to pick on you.

I am a 33 year young Pisces. Very good sense of humor, interesting, sincere, clean, no drugs. I do not go for groups or way out kinky sex. I am seeking a single person for a happy, lasting, personal life. And I will be the girl of the relationship. I can please and satisfy the right one in any way, but I will be the weaker vessel, so speak.

I am a high school graduate, and I have a certificate in Human Relations. My military obligation was fulfilled with the Florida National Guard. Boy, I am glad of that also.

If you can help with my request it will be very much appreciated.

Bobby Joe Chaney, 141
061690
P.O. Box 518
Zephyrhills, FL 34283-0518

Getting Out Soon

* I am presently incarcerated and looking for a sincere gay who I can share my life with. I am 6'4" tall, 195 pounds, and will be getting out very soon.

David Hardin, #5197
P.O. Box 30
Pendleton, IN 46064

Looking for Long-term Affair

* Please place my name, etc. in your next publication. W/M, 25 (1/12/58), dark auburn hair, br. eyes, 5'11", 160 lbs. soon to be released, looking for sincere relationship with understanding gay — interested in long-term affair.

Douglas A. Bergfeld, #13989
P.O. Box 30
Pendleton, IN 46064

Goodlooking in Indiana

* Goodlooking black male seeking sincere gays who I could share my life with. Will be getting out real soon.

Gregory Sargent
P.O. Box 30
Pendleton, IN 46064

Maximum Security in Florida

* I would appreciate very much if you would have my ad placed in your publication.

I'm a lonely inmate at Florida Maximum Security Prison. I am 20 years of age, 5'11", 150 lbs., very handsome. My eyes are green and hair is blond.

I'm interested in correspondence with all gay people — sex, age, and race make no difference.

I am thanking you very much in advance for your time and service.

Sidney Davis, #010501
P.O. Box 747
Starke, FL 32091

Prison Pen Pal Warning

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Chief Postal Inspector has issued a warning to Gay pen pals of prison inmates. K.H. Fletcher says that his office has seen an alarming increase in altered postal money orders, and he claims that 90% of the victims are from the Gay community.

Fletcher explained that most of these cases involve inmates who place pen pal ads in Gay publications, begin a correspondence with a Gay man, and then ask him to cash a money order for a large amount and wire the cash to a confederate outside. These money orders, Fletcher says, were purchased for much smaller amounts and altered by the inmates. After the Gay victim cashes them and forward them as instructed, the bank, when it is advised that the money order has been altered, will take the money from the Gay man's account.

He said some individuals have lost as much as \$20,000 through this scheme, and since the inmates are already in prison, there is often no way for them to get their money back. Fletcher suggests that Gay men who have a pen pal in prison be very suspicious of any financial transaction and especially refuse to cash money orders.

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AIDS Now Seen as Worldwide Health Problem

Europe's Rate Doubles According to a Major 'N.Y. Times' Article

The worldwide spread of AIDS was discussed by 38 scientists meeting at the U.N. World Health Organization in late November. They revealed that 15 European countries reporting to the U.N. reveal that 10% of the known cases originate in these countries. Of the AIDS cases reported in this area (267) 60% were diagnosed this year. The disease has been reported in 33 countries.

This was the first world conference of scientists who are directly working in AIDS care and research. They shared information and made some general conclusions, the most spectacular being the increase in AIDS cases outside of the United States. However, some origins of the disease were noted. For example, of the European total 59 cases were of people born in Africa. In France and Belgium, more than half the reported cases were from five African countries. The French total also included 94 Haitians.

tions may have limited the spread to this area.

Germany: West Germany has reported 42 cases while East Germany claims it has none.

Africa: Reports that the disease may generally be transmitted heterosexually in some less developed countries such as Africa because of inadequately sterilized needles and syringes.

Hospital records reveal that AIDS cases existed in Africa at the same time that they were first discovered in the United States. In Zaire, as many women as men were affected. An internationally-financed team is working in Zaire to study the AIDS situation there.

Asia/Australia: Australia has reported only four cases and Japan, the only Asian country to report any cases, has reported only two.

Soviet Union/Eastern Europe: Questions are asked as to whether information from this area is being suppressed by government authorities. A Soviet scientist attending the Geneva meeting said he knew of no cases in his country. There was speculation that strict travel restric-

Cases continue to double every six months with 50 cases thus far reported. The 50 included 43 men and 7 women; 24 were known homosexuals.

The total included 18 from Haiti, one admitting to being homosexual.

Haiti: Haitians are bitter over the drop of its U.S. tourist trade which was 2/3 of the total at one time — over some allegations that Haitians were "spreading" AIDS to the United States

through male prostitution contacts. Tourist trade fell from 70,000 in the winter of 1981-82 to 10,000 last winter.

Urban areas account for most of the known cases in Haiti, mostly Port-au-Prince. There are currently 180 documented cases. A surprising 28% of the cases are women while only 5% are men in the United States. Some researchers speculate that the number of bisexual men in Haiti may be a factor.

Research continues to reveal more questions than answers, and scientists remain baffled by much of the AIDS phenomenon. Amidst the speculation are these possibilities discussed at Geneva:

Dr. Walter Dowdie of the U.S. National Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, chaired the international meet. He said, "If AIDS is like any other infectious disease, which indeed it may be, one may expect an entire spectrum of illness, and we may find that many people have it without coming down with fully developed cases." He believes that if many people are recovering from milder forms of AIDS without detection, the extremely high death rate now reported may fall to a much lower figure in time.

The hoped-for discovery of a laboratory test to diagnose AIDS is linked to the discovery of the cause of AIDS. Many scientists have concluded that it is caused by an infectious agent. The most likely prospect is a virus.

One encouraging note may be that with the detection of AIDS in many countries outside of the United States, more scientists will be participating in the research. ■

Regional Parade Gathering Here

Lay Out '84 Plans

by Konstantin Berfandt

Representatives from five regional cities gathered here over the weekend to discuss coordinating Stonewall commemoration activities this June.

Delegates from Los Angeles, San Diego, Las Vegas, Sacramento, and San Francisco met for 4½ hours during the wet Saturday afternoon at the AIDS/KS offices here at 54 Tenth Street. Later they dined together at the Line-Up and enjoyed as much of the city's hospitality as there were hours in the night.

Dates of events in the five cities this June-July 1 stacked like boxes of Sundays on a calendar.

Ron Floyd and Ricky May of Las Vegas announced plans to hold a pride awards banquet there Saturday, June 2, coupled with a Metropolitan Community Church ceremony the following day and a week of pride activities concluding with a barbecue and candlelight rally Saturday, June 9.

San Diego's Doug Moore said they will hold a band/chorus concert Friday, June 8, their parade and rally June 9, and a 12-hour festival Sunday, June 10.

Representing Sacramento were Robin Peters, a member of La Raza Ambiente, and Jerry Sloan, who said the capital city would hold a fair instead of a parade on Saturday, June 16, and a candlelight ceremony on the State Capitol Sunday evening, June 17.

Sloan said the '83 Sacramento march had lacked both vitality and some of the flashier floats from the year before. "Let the parade rest this year," Sloan said. "If we want to make a statement, we'll come to San Francisco."

Los Angeles this year has

scheduled their Parade on Sunday, July 1, one week after the San Francisco Parade Sunday,



Regional Parade putters-on gather in San Francisco to discuss '84 plans.

(Photo: Rink)

Gay Catholics Hold Midnight Mass in Lutheran Church



St. Francis Lutheran Church at 152 Church (at 14th) will host Dignity for their Midnight Mass celebration. (Photo: Rink)

Dignity/San Francisco, the organization of Gay Catholics and their friends, will celebrate Christmas with a vigil service and Midnight Mass beginning

at 11:30 p.m. on December 24. The service will take place at St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church Street, near Market and 14th Streets.

Glenn's Gay Gap Widens

California Chairman Stands By as Others Drop Out

NGTF Executive Director Virginia M. Apuzzo; Peter Vogel, Co-Chair of the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs; and six leaders of the New York City Lesbian/Gay community met last week with Presidential contender John Glenn. The meeting, arranged through the offices of Glenn's New York campaign chairman, State Senate Minority Leader Manfred Ohrenstein, came six weeks after the candidate had expressed his opposition to the federal Gay civil rights bill in response to a question from an NGTF representative at a New York Forum.

After the meeting, Apuzzo and Vogel asserted that Glenn "remained intransigent" on issues of special concern to the Gay community. This week Glenn continued to drop in nationwide polls.

The meeting, which lasted for over an hour, did not center around the civil rights bill as a "litmus test," but rather addressed a broad spectrum of issues especially important to Lesbians and Gay men, including immigration, AIDS, vio-

lence, social service delivery, and discrimination against Gays and Lesbians in the military. The group also challenged Glenn's contention, made earlier in the day, that Lesbians and Gay men were unfit to work as "teachers or YMCA directors."

While the dialogue was cordial, the Ohio Senator continually focused on the idea of sexual orientation as a choice rather than a pre-existing condition like race or gender. "The Senator acknowledged the existence of discrimination," Apuzzo noted, "but was unwilling to support any remedy for that discrimination. This intransigence is unacceptable."

"He offered no new departures from his previous positions," added Vogel. Glenn himself stressed that he wanted a "continuing dialogue with the Gay and Lesbian community," and conceded that "this issue [Gay and Lesbian civil rights] has become an item on the national agenda."

On December 15, State Senator Ohrenstein announced his resignation from the Glenn campaign. Ohrenstein's district in-

Because of lack of space at Dignity's regular home, St. John of God Church in the Sunset, the group needed a location for its Midnight Mass. Dignity's request for space coincided with discussions by the parishioners of St. Francis about making a gesture of welcome to San Francisco's Gay community at Christmas. "The Christ Child was born in Bethlehem to bring God's love to a divided and alienated world," noted the Rev. James Lokken, assistant pastor of St. Francis Church, "and it is fitting that we celebrate Christmas Eve with those who have been separated from us by history and custom. We are delighted to have the members of Dignity with us this Christmas."

"We are grateful to the pastors and people of St. Francis for opening their home to Dignity at Christmas," said Tom Murray, co-chair of Dignity/San Francisco. "During the 500th anniversary of Luther's birth, we rejoice in this gesture of hospitality and reconciliation. We hope that many in the Lesbian and Gay community can join us in welcoming the Lord Jesus on Christmas Eve."

In addition to the Midnight Mass at St. Francis, Dignity/San Francisco will hold its regular Sunday Eucharist at 6 p.m. on Christmas Day at St. John of God Church, Fifth Avenue and Irving Street.

cludes one of the largest Gay and Lesbian constituencies in the nation.

Meanwhile, while San Francisco Glenn supporters have backed away — Supervisor Richard Hongisto, District Attorney Arlo Smith, Public Defender Jeff Brown — California's top Glenn man has not.

Assemblyman Richard Katz (D-Sepulveda) pledged this week to stand by his man — despite Glenn's dispute with Gay rightists. Katz said he disagreed with Glenn on his stands on Gays. But Katz said that one issue would not change his support of Glenn.

"In my mind, it is one issue among many issues that form a presidency," Katz said by telephone from his district office. "We have seen, particularly in California, how divisive single-issue candidates and issues can be."

The SF Chronicle reported that Katz in the past served as a heterosexual board member of a Gay political group in Los Angeles and has backed unsuccessful state legislation to ban discrimination against Gays.

Despite disagreement with Glenn on Gay issues, Katz said, "There is no thought whatsoever of leaving the Glenn campaign." As for the political effects in California from Glenn's opposition to Gay rights laws, Katz said, "It will probably be a wash — you may lose some people and pick up some people."

homosexual community. Just as important, it reinforces prejudice and perpetuates the unfounded myth that homosexuals recruit young people into a choice of sexual orientation."

The day Ms. Escarcega presented herself for work, October 15, 1982, she was wearing a pink dress shirt with buttons fastening from right to left as traditional with male attire. School officials confronted her and demanded to know her sexual orientation. When she responded she was a Lesbian, she was fired.

"Maria Elena Escarcega is entitled to teach," said Kelber.

Fired Teaching Asst. Files Suit

Maria Elena Escarcega was accepted over a year ago for the position of teacher's assistant at the 66th Street School, a Los Angeles elementary school in one of the city's difficult South-central neighborhoods.

Ms. Escarcega was never allowed to teach, however, because she is a Lesbian, and said so when quizzed by officials of the elementary school on her first day at work.

Those officials and the Los Angeles Unified School District are now the subject of a damage suit filed recently in Los Angeles



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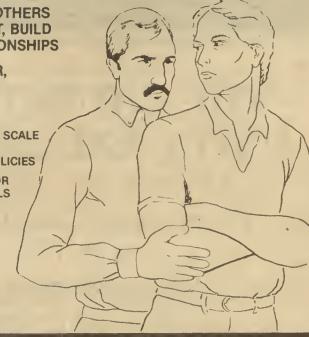
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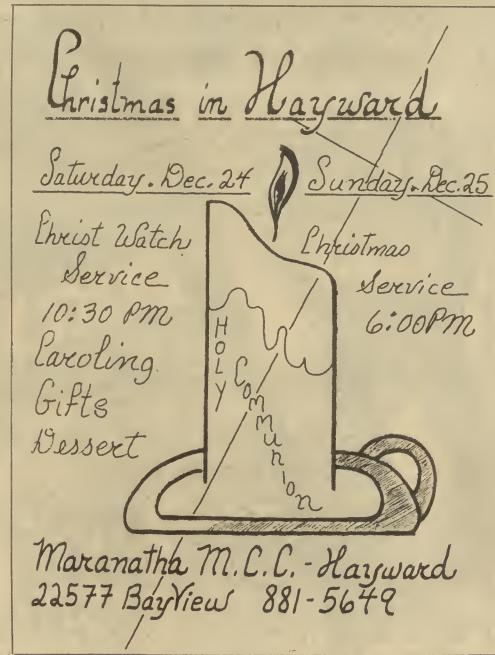


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Confessions of a Fag Bashee

Part II: The Workings of Justice

by Mike Hippler

In early July I was accosted by a group of belligerent teenage thugs and thrown through a plate-glass window. I was returning home from a movie on Haight Street with two friends, an event I subsequently wrote about in the July 14 issue of the *Bay Area Reporter*. In that article I expressed my determination to prosecute one of my assailants — the one who was cornered by witnesses in a grocery store after he ran down the street and held until police arrived. I wanted to do this for several reasons. Even though I knew that conviction was by no means certain, I wanted him "to suffer the time, expense, and trouble of judicial proceedings," as I said at the time. Furthermore, I wanted him to learn that he couldn't go around beating up on faggots without bearing the consequences — which I hoped would be as severe as possible.

Reactions to my original article from the Gay community were swift and overwhelming. Most of the letters and calls I received at the paper and at home were tremendously supportive. Obviously, I had touched a collective nerve. "Congratulations for fighting back," said one. "You did the right thing. Your attackers deserve to have their asses kicked. Gay people are not going to put up with crap from assholes like that." "I want to thank you for sharing what must have been a harrowing experience," wrote another. "It felt very powerful to be able to read about a Gay brother, confronted with violence, who was able to take action." Some of the reactions were excessive, however. One man wrote, "I suggest that as soon as a few fag-bashers are shot and killed by citizens exercising their right to self-defense, anti-Gay violence will end." And others got carried away in another direction. One man wrote, "Mr. Hippler, you have my respect and my ass any time you want it." Another asked, "Mike, how about a date? I'll be at your side, if need be, fighting."

While I was touched by most of these letters, I felt that some of the authors had missed the point. I thought I had made it clear in my article that I was not sure that fighting back on the spot was the correct thing to do. By fighting back, I endangered myself and my friends. Mightn't it have been wiser to ignore the teenagers, whose first offense was merely to bump into me deliberately and to call me a faggot, and to move on? There was the matter of pride, to be sure, but as my friend at work pointed out, "Your pride and self-respect can't possibly depend on what they think of you, can it?" I also thought I had made it clear that I did feel a certain measure of responsibility for escalating the incident. Had I not spoken back, perhaps nothing would have happened. Yet most of my "admirers" completely ignored that point, although some acknowledged and dismissed it. They seemed determined to make me a hero — which was okay by me, except that it all seemed artificial and overblown. I felt they were admiring me for the wrong things — for my "courage," which might equally have been termed "stupidity," or for my picture in the paper, which was more embarrassing than anything else.

Not all the responses were positive. One man wrote a fairly nasty letter, beginning "Mike Hippler is a fool and that he writes for *B.A.R.* is no surprise." After calling me a "meek fellow" and criticizing my "convenient memory," he went on to say, "Having lost the fight — and it was a fight — mutual combat — as the cop said, he now demands justice . . . The courts and the police have better things to do. No doubt he will drag *CUAV* down to the police station and complain to anyone who will listen to just about everything . . . The DA has better things to do too." Yet this man, too, missed the point. Although I admitted my reserva-

tions about standing up to my assailants, it was always clear to me that this was no mutual combat. I was the one who was attacked and thrown through the window, after all, and I never felt any guilt about that. Furthermore, I doubt that the police, courts, and DA have better things to do than to investigate assault cases. Granted, there are more serious crimes in the world — murder and rape, for instance — but if the responsibility of the police is not to protect and the duty of the courts is not to ensure justice, then what are their responsibilities and duties?

I was well aware when I wrote my article in July that I was not the only faggot ever to be attacked by hostile youths. "People get accosted every day," I wrote then, "and some get hurt a lot worse than I was." Two weeks after I wrote those words, in fact, I read an article by Dion

where, in all likelihood, my attacker, whose only previous arrest was for loitering with an open beverage, would be placed on probation. Probation, Ron continued, is a more serious situation than it sounds. For a certain period of this kid's future, his life would belong to his probation officer. He would have to report for periodic meetings, and he would have to keep away from trouble. In all respects he would have to lead an exemplary life — which would include leaving faggots alone — or else he would find himself faced with criminal proceedings again. "Good," I thought. "That's exactly what I want — and what the kid needs — supervision that will hopefully force him to get his life in order." And with any luck at all, according to Ron Huberman, that is often what probation will do. Although the kids don't appreciate this at the time, of course, often

"As long as attacks against Gay people continue, we are living in a state of siege."

— Mike Hippler

Sanders in the *B.A.R.* which chronicled attacks against Gay people in Seattle by "roving gangs of teenagers armed with clubs, chains, and baseball bats." During one of the assaults, a Gay man and his companion were beaten and raped with crowbars by a group of about a dozen teenagers screaming, "Disseased faggots!" The results? "Smashed ligaments, welts and lacerations on their faces and bodies, and severe rectal damage that required surgery." I was horrified. But the attacks continue in cities across the nation, many in the very hearts of the "ghettos" which many of us consider havens of freedom, and it is a rare week indeed when one can read an entire issue of the paper without encountering at least one account of anti-Gay violence.

Immediately after my own incident, I contacted Randy Schell of Community United Against Violence, who referred me to Ron Huberman, an investigator in the DA's office. Ron promised to follow the case and to see that it was investigated thoroughly. "The problem that we have with these kinds of cases," he told me, "is that the victims are often unwilling to come forward and testify." In many instances, he explained, the victim is an older man who has been robbed or beaten by some kid he has picked up on Polk Street. After he has reported it to the police, he sometimes has second thoughts about carrying on with the case, for he doesn't want the publicity that might result. Perhaps he has a wife or homophobic boss. "But since you are willing and eager to testify, and since you have witnesses, we should have a fairly good case," Ron concluded.

Ron did not promise a conviction — he could not. But he did believe that we could at least get the case to a pre-trial hearing, (Continued on next page)

All of this would not happen without aggressive action on my part, however. As Ron explained, the DA's office receives as many as 40 to 50 cases a day, a far greater number than it can investigate or the courts can handle. What often happens, therefore, is that when the case is ready by an investigator, although he is supposed to contact all parties concerned in order to determine whether or not to proceed with the case, he will often make only a half-hearted attempt to investigate and then throw the case out, with the excuse that he couldn't get in touch with the victim. In all fairness, many times the victim is legitimately unavailable — perhaps he has moved in the meantime or has no phone. If I didn't want this to happen with my case, therefore, I would have to contact the investigator myself and make myself available. I did this immediately, and within a week or two after the incident, I gave my statement concerning the attack to Sergeant Malone over the telephone. Then I waited for the August 10 arraignment.

Soon after my article appeared I received a message on my answering machine from someone I assumed to be one of the three assailants. The voice on the tape stated simply in a strong Southern (working class?) accent, "My name is Eddie. Would you call me please?" Because the caller

(Continued from previous page)

sounded young, scared, and vulnerable, I was sure it was one of the two who was not caught, who had seen my article in the *B.A.R.* and had found my number in the phone book. If it were one of the three, I wondered, what could he want? Perhaps he wanted to plead with me to drop the charges against his friend, assuring me that they were all sorry and would never do it again. Perhaps he wanted to threaten me instead. One of the letter-writers to the *Bay Area Reporter* had warned me of just such a possibility, in fact, and had cautioned me to be careful, for fear of reprisals. If it was a threat, I wasn't worried. I would not allow myself to be intimidated. If it was a plea for understanding, however, I feared I might play the sucker and succumb to the caller's sob story, if it was good enough. So I called both Randy Schell and Ron Huberman and related this latest development. They both encouraged me to be firm and to stand fast. "This is one of the tricks they pull," said Ron. "Just explain to them that the matter is out of your hands now. Say there is nothing you can do." Resolved to follow his advice, I called "Eddie" back — three times — but never reached him, so all my trauma was for naught.

On August 10 my assailant, George, was arraigned, but instead of requesting a date for a pre-trial hearing, the DA's office moved to drop the case. I didn't find out about this for several weeks, for Ron Huberman, who had promised to keep me informed, was out of town on vacation. When Ron returned, he was as surprised and as disappointed as I was that the charges against my assailant were dropped. "What happened?" I asked. "I don't know," he replied. "It was my understanding when I left that we were going ahead with your case." He called Sgt. Malone, who had taken my statement over the phone, and Malone said that he didn't know what had happened either. He had sent my case "upstairs" to the charging deputies who make the decisions whether or not there is sufficient evidence to prosecute, and he didn't know why they had moved to drop it. "It looked like a pretty clear case of assault to me," Malone told me later. Ron then suggested I pay a visit to the Hall of Justice in order to give my statement to Sergeant Malone a second time, this time in person. "Although the case has been discharged, it is possible to reopen it," he explained. "I'll also show the deputies your article, and maybe together we can convince them to reconsider the situation." In mid-August, therefore, I drove down to the Hall of Justice to tell my story for the umpteenth time, and soon thereafter the charging deputies agreed to reopen the case.

One of the concerns I wrote about in my July 14 article was what I would do if the incident happened again or if I were confronted with a similar situation. Would I fight back as I did the first time? Or would I ignore all provocation? On September 15, while on the way home from a trip to the Russian River with my friend Steve Beery, I had the opportunity to discover exactly what I would do in such a case. Steve and I were driving along winding River Road an hour before sunset, sunburned and feeling wonderful, when we noticed a car full of teenagers tailgating us. For miles they followed us, seemingly anxious to pass, but when I gave them the chance to do so, they never took it. In the rearview mirror I could see them drinking, and I sensed trouble. Finally, when the road straightened, they pulled out, and as they passed they threw a giant

sized paper cup full of beer at us, gave us the finger, shouted, laughed, and sped ahead. Because the top was down on the car, the beer drenched both Steve and me and sprayed the entire inside of the car. (It is amazing how much beer will fit into a Hardee's cup.) I was livid with rage and immediately pressed the gas pedal to the floor, determined to catch up with the teenagers and get my revenge somehow. After a few seconds, however, I thought, "What in the hell am I doing? The last thing in the world I want to do is to catch up with these fellows. What would I do with them if I did?" So I slowed down, pulled over, and Steve and I wiped the beer off our faces, dried our hair, and mopped the car. Steve was still furious and — what was far worse — humiliated. He had never before been the victim of that kind of aggression, and he couldn't understand it. "Why would they do such a thing?" he asked. "Perhaps because we are faggots," I answered, although in this case I had no clear evidence to support such an assumption, for these teenagers had not made anti-Gay remarks as they passed. Perhaps they were just out joy-riding and would have thrown beer at anyone. In any case, trying to console Steve, I quickly overcame my own anger. And I learned that I could indeed respond non-violently to violent provocation without losing my sense of dignity, even as beer dripped down my neck.

In late October, months after the original incident, I finally received another call from Ron Huberman. "I just wanted to let you know," he said, "that they've dropped the charges against George a second time, so that's it. It can't be reopened again."

"But why?" I begged, astonished. "What went wrong this time?"

"Basically, the charging deputy didn't think it was winnable," he replied. "On the original police report there were no witnesses listed, so the only thing they had to go on was your testimony. Naturally, your assailant would challenge that with his own version, and so the situation would become what we call a one-on-one — your word against his."

I protested that I had witnesses — my two friends, who were willing to testify. He countered that the court might consider them biased, and in any case, George could come up with witnesses of his own — his two friends. Furthermore, George was only one of the three who attacked me and therefore did not bear the entire responsibility for the assault, especially since I did not remember if he was the ring-leader or not. Finally, I was not hurt badly enough. "Even though you *might* have suffered severe injury from the falling glass, you did not," said Ron, "and the deputies take that into consideration."

Although I thought he might want to avoid me, I was able to reach Hugh Donahue on my second try. He assured me that he did investigate my case thoroughly and that there simply wasn't enough evidence to convict. "As I recall, we had our investigators go out and talk to five or six of the people involved," he stated.

"But they didn't contact my witnesses," I protested, "and I gave their names to Sergeant Malone."

"It wouldn't have mattered," Donahue continued. "The main thing is that we wouldn't have been able to establish the element of intent. We wouldn't have been able to prove that he intended to shove you through that window."

Before he hung up, Donahue added, "This really upsets me, believe me — this kind of conduct," referring to my assailants.

"Yeah, thanks," I answered. "It doesn't change things much, but I do understand. I don't agree with your decision, but I understand."

So it's all over. I tried my best to follow through with this thing, and little has come of it — a good deal of publicity, some public indignation, and that's about it. George and his two friends may have been temporarily frightened or inconvenienced, but they did not suffer the consequences of a sentence, a trial, or even a pre-trial hearing, as I wanted. They are still at liberty to walk on Haight Street, and for all I know they may be beating up on faggots at this moment.

I am not surprised at the way things have turned out. Neither am I disillusioned or embittered by the experience. I know that the American system of justice has a million flaws and that it hardly approximates the ideal. The thing to do is simply to learn the system and to make it work for you, if you can. I tried. I didn't try hard enough. What else could I have done? I could have rounded up those "unbiased" witnesses in the beginning, perhaps. I wanted to do it at the time, but they were fading from the scene fast, and I didn't want to bother them. All of this

may seem like an awful lot of work for the victim of a crime, of course, but there is a principle involved here — that every citizen is entitled to freedom from assault — and it is a principle worth working for, even when the case is a minor one like mine, a seemingly "insignificant" matter.

scared. I had to make a *statement*. The word went out all right. "Go ahead and get the pansies," was the word. "Just don't get caught. But if you do, it won't matter much. They may ask you a few questions, but they usually let you go free."

* * *

I still go out at night, of course. I can't let one mugging in my four years in this city keep me off the streets of San Francisco. But whenever I return home after dark, I walk down the middle of the street rather than the sidewalk, and I am constantly on the look-out for suspicious-looking groups of people. I also carry a whistle when feeling particularly paranoid, although I admit I ought to wear it all the time. Living like this is annoying, to be sure. I often feel as if I am living in a state of siege.

But as long as attacks against Gay people continue, we are living in a state of siege, and it is wise to remember it. It is also advisable to do something about it. We should not accept this state of affairs without fighting back. But I don't think that fight should take place in the streets — take it from one who knows. Fight in the newspapers, in the churches, in the schools, or in the homes — even fight in the courts if you can — but keep it off the streets. Windows get broken that way.

M. Hippler

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Christmas in Gayland

The Castro: Lights, Tinsel, and Something for Everyone

by Bernard Spinberg

Some Gay people don't like Castro Street. Some Gay people cringe at blatant sexuality in broad daylight. Some Gay people see the decline and fall of Western civilization in the stagger of a midafternoon barfly. Personally, I regret the gradual departure of small businesses forced out by skyrocketing rents. But we who have easy access to Castro Street should remember that it has become a symbol, a synonym for Gay Liberation. Butte, Bismarck, Bangor: they seem impossibly remote to us, but they're not. They're real places occupied by real people who express their Gayness publicly only at the risk of life and limb. For them, faults that loom large to us recede into significance. Yes, Gay people are assaulted on Castro Street, too — miserable, shameful fact — but every time I step onto Castro Street, I reflect on its power as a symbol of the idea that somewhere — *somewhere*, it's okay to be Gay.

Now it's Christmas, and shops and restaurants on Castro and throughout the surrounding neighborhood are putting forth their Gayest efforts.

Headlines is offering some of the most imaginative gifts in the district. There's a radio-controlled robot butler, a penguin kettle, and loads of stocking stuffer ideas. Fanny's will have several entrees available for Christmas dinner. Prime rib, duck, chicken, lamb, or shrimps and scallops in creme fraiche are toothsome, and there will be a special Christmas Eve performance by Lynda Bergren. Tommy B. will perform from 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Day.

Marcello's has been gussied up with colored lights that may or may not affect his usual tasty pizza, and the Gramophone has gone crazy with a nearly store-wide sale. There are Christmas records by Phil Spector, Streisand, Joan Baez, the New York Gay Men's Chorus (our own Gay Chorus' record is not yet out of print), and the Weather Girls' hit, "Dear Santa (Bring Me a Man for Christmas)."

I ate my first hot meal in San Francisco at Norse Cove. There's no special Christmas celebration scheduled, but I can still taste that omelette. I was hungry, and the omelette was loaded with cheese and perfectly cooked.

The Gilded Age is featuring Gay Monopoly from the Parker Sisters. "All profits donated to AIDS research and support groups" is inscribed on the box — a strong selling point. Castro Station has lots of pretty red lights and pine boughs giving off their scent — and get this: On weekends between 3 and 3:30 p.m. and weekdays between 5 and 5:30 p.m. the Station is giving away wine, beer, and well drinks for free! While waiting to speak to the bartender, I even got a mash note!

Without Reservations has holly and poinsettias in the window. At Thanksgiving, thirty Cornish game hens were sold in one hour, so Without Reservations is planning something extra special for Christmas Day. There will be a regular special on Christmas Eve. Welcome Home will be closed on Christmas Day. Festive snow stenciling on the window adds to the holiday ambience on the street.

Castro Country is a little tiny florist next to a delicatessen. Proprietor Bob Cramer is selling great big bows to go around poinsettias along with his regular stock. Everything is fresh and beautiful, and there are lots of pine wreaths. The Castro Professional Building is worth investigating for gift certificates. There's Community Rentals; Gay Rooms; Career Resume Service; Alexander's Aesthetics; Escapes Travel Agency; Drs. Houser & Pettit, chiropractors; Dr. Alan MacDonald, dentist; and the Gay Community Directory. At Valley Pride supermarket the tinsel is hanging, and the butcher's selection is as choice as ever.

Chez Danny is one of the street's posher dining spots and will be open Christmas Eve with something special. The Bear has decided not to decorate for Christmas but instead to donate the money they would have spent plus the entire day's bar receipts on Christmas Eve to the Shanti Project to help our stricken brothers. The Phoenix is carrying on with their usual flair, as is the Castro Cafe, with the addition of some Christmas snow and aluminum garlands.

Turning the corner of 18th Street, Dino's Liquors is offering a methuselah (translation: a BIG bottle) of champagne from Heidsieck & Co. Gift tins and boxes from Barton & Gustier, Mirassou, and beautiful divider bottles

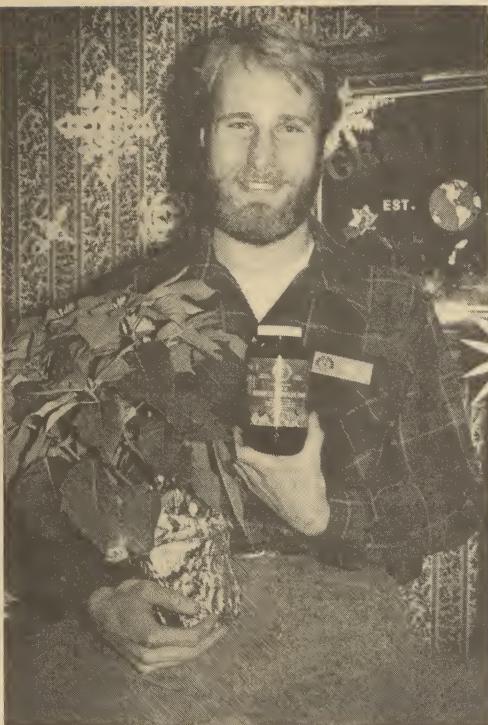
with two or more different kinds of liquor make fun presents.

Atlas Savings is offering the community wreaths, poinsettias, and a great big hole in the ground soon to be filled with their new branch. Long may it prosper. The Pendulum has lights, trees, and a big box labeled "Gifts for patients of Ward 5B. Items needed: shaving cream, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, candy, and nuts." Fill that box. Off the Beaten Track is planning something special for Christmas Eve but will be closed on Christmas Day. The Boot Den is the oldest shoe store in the neighborhood. You'll smell the mingled scents of pine and leather when you go in to ask about gift certificates.

Everything Hot on Castro '83 except the tree at Hibernia Beach

Sushi-Gen has tinsel on their ficus but not on their sushi. Trifles Pastry at 18th and Eureka has Yule Logs made of walnut genoise with mocha butter cream, Christmas cookies, fruitcakes, pecan cakes, stollen, frangipane fruit tarts with strawberries and kiwis from New Zealand. All ingredients are fresh — no dried eggs or milk. Trifles uses almost five hundred pounds of butter a week. They will close at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Across the street, Lenny's Linen Closet has cute bears chopping wood in the window. Lenny is featuring red and green linen and towels. Bredwell Meyer Florist has fresh red hot peppers which contrast Christmasy with their green stems. The Plantation has lots of poinsettias of various sizes as well as pine boughs.

The Pipeline Bar at 18th and Collingwood has one of the



Doug Kimball, manager of Castro Street's Great Earth Vitamins, selling health and a fetching smile. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

homiest trees in the Castro. It's nice and full and is decorated with lights, balls, bows, and lots of tinsel. There will be a party at the Pipeline on December 23 at 8 p.m. There's also a New Year's party being planned. David Andrew is a haberdasher just off Castro on 18th. Listen to Bing Crosby warble carols as you check out the sale items. I love the South China Cafe. The service is friendly, the atmosphere unpretentious, the food tasty, plentiful, wholesome, and very reasonable.

Custom Framing, Inc. is very toasty. They carry lots of signed, framed Erte lithographs. The Badlands is decorated with lights and boughs. Castellana carries fancy Spanish pastries including troncos (Yule logs) and a special fruitcake made with pine nuts. Turron is a marzipan candy traditional at Christmas. Castellana is open to 11 on Christmas Eve. All That Jazz carries gifts and stationery. They have enough paper on hand to wrap even the most pretentious gift. The Elephant Walk is decked out with garlands of pine wrapped around its pillars. There are also wreaths and boughs lit by twinkly lights.

Turning the corner back onto Castro, we find a miniature winter wonderland in the window of Haagen Dazs, but no real Christmas flavors. If they can't get it perfect, Haagen Dazs would rather not serve it. Main Line Gifts has millions of stocking stuffers in the form of clever little novelties. Main Line is also offering crystal, T-shirts, and kitchenware. Crown Books, our local book supermarket, is stocked to bulging. The barbecue ribs at Canton Restaurant are a lustrously Christmassy red, and they also have a beautiful tree. Browser's Nook antiques is the place to shop if you want to put an armoire under your tree. Designer's Frame and Picture Company has some sculptures on sale, and lots of pretty posters. Buy them pre-framed and save money in the long run.

Castro Place is a mini-mall housing Always Tan, Always Cut (once cut, I thought you stayed cut . . . Oh! I get it. Hair.), Castro Street Tailors, and Footware. Revolver Records carries out-of-print treasures for the discophile with nearly everything. Great Earth Vitamins is decorated with

hanging paper snowflakes. Salesman Robert says that "most people don't think of vitamins as a gift, but what's better than a gift of health?" Castro Gardens will be closed Christmas Day, but there is a Christmas Eve dinner planned.

The San Francisco Chocolate Factory has Santa Claus, holly, and kitty cat truffles. Copenhagen Ice Cream features special cones made on the premises. Plain, dipped, or dipped in both chocolate and nuts, they are extra special. Their texture and flavor make other cones taste like dust. Pret a Manger offers take-out gourmet dinners; they're delivered, too. This business is only six weeks old and already looks like a winner. Tommy's Plants always looks like a jungle. Tommy is observing the season by stocking live trees and wreaths woven of statue.

Brand X carries antique stocking stuffers that are tiny exquisites along with sculptures, vases, and decanters. Liquor Express is dispensing good will, friendly service, Korbel brandy, and Sterling wines, especially merlot and cabernet. If your little lamb is feeling chilly, you'll find lamb jackets on sale at Off the Rack. Treads and Threads has casual clothes with an athletic accent. Good Provider Health Foods has lavish baskets of fruit and other goodies. Their usual diverse stock is also on hand.

PO Plus is a godsend for disorganized souls. Just give them an object and an address and they'll take care of wrapping and shipping. City Island has stacks and stacks of sale garments. All are made of natural fibers. City Island also has water lizard wallets and belts for the aquatic reptile in your life.

Turning the corner onto 19th Street, we find SF Office Supplies offering free wine to soothe the shopper's and reporter's hysteria. High-tech stationery makes a good gift, especially considering free gift wrapping. G. Willikens Antiques was momentarily closed, but a glance through the window revealed chotchkas heaven on earth. The Castro Village Wine Co. has rare California and French champagnes. Pol Roger is restrained and dry, with a lingering character and tiny bubbles.

(Continued on next page)



Denevi Camera Store in the Castro Marketplace — going full speed for '83 Christmas sales. (Photo: Rink)

Christmas in Gayland

Polk Street: As It Has for Years, Big on Christmas

by Tom Rogers

Small, shield-shaped banners, trimmed with evergreen, herald the season from the light poles above a busy street. It's Christmas in Polk Gulch. "Business has been great," said Dennis Kirtley. He's the newly elected President of the Polk Street Merchants' Association. He manages What's Up, a tiny shop loaded with cards and small gifts, and as we spoke, he was kept busy at the register by customers who helped demonstrate his point.



Polk Street's Headlines — a hot spot and a hot shot Christmas gift store. (Photo: Rink)

Outside crowds of people with arms full of packages braved the miserable rain that drenched the city two weekends ago. They were rushing from one shop to the next, both above and below the swamped cable car construction project at California Street. Christmas tree vendors dotted the street, offering beautifully fragrant samples of nature's perfect offering to the season. Spirits were being warmed in some of the bars, like the double-decked Kimo's, the *P.S., and the New Bell, and lunch combined to offer both protection from the rain and nourishment in places like Red's — a sleek, newish place atop the Chelsea shops that were themselves busy with shoppers.

Many retailers, Polk Street stalwarts like the Town Squire and its mate Q.T., the invertebrate Le Salon and other newer additions to the street all vied for the attention of shoppers with sophisticated window and floor displays of merchandise sure to titillate or otherwise best suit the next friend on that Christmas

list. The street's two major leather retailers, Leather Forever and Hard-On Leathers, as well as LeatherWorld over on Larkin, all combined to provide the North of Market shopper a full range of leather clothing and other gift items for those whose lists include someone with a leather lifestyle.

Although many of the shops, restaurants, and bars deserve special mention, Headlines captured this reporter's attention. The place vibrated with energy — not to mention music. Racks of cards, giant frosted glass lamps in the shape of pears, clothing, leather, and showcases filled with small gift items fill this newly remodeled store. It's a happy achievement for Andrew A. Cramer, 34, who arrived in San Francisco in 1977 from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Cramer said during an interview that when he came to this city, it was to achieve a goal unavailable to him in New Mexico: to open a "business on a street where there were other Gay businesses."



Leather is big all over town this holiday — from Polk Street's long-standing Leather Forever to Larkin Street's LeatherWorld. (Photo: Rink)

(Continued from previous page)

characteristic of fine champagne. Schaffenberger is a new champagne from a new winery. It's very dry and delicate. Java Road Coffee, Tea, Candy, Etc. smells wonderful. "Etc." means coffee makers and preserves. Jebe's Kompack Kamera has gifts for shutterbugs. There's a 10% discount for professionals and students, and all film is 15% off list price. Photo finishing is uncensored.

And we're back on Castro. High Gear has sportswear: sweatshirts, scarves, socks, and T-shirts. China Court was not open for lunch when I hopped past, but they do have a nice tree by the door. Hiro's Oriental Gifts is a bit of Grant Avenue on Castro Street. Simply miles of lacquer and china. The Anchor Oyster Bar will be open Christmas Eve and closed Christmas Day. Statements has pink trees in the window. They carry ridiculously novel novelty clocks. You may have to learn to tell time all over again. The Castro Garage Mall has fashion, shoes, leather, calligraphy, candy, stationery, and an art gallery.

The Castro General Store is temporarily in caboots with something called Ho Ho Ho. Both carry fashion stocking stuffers: jewelry, elegant stationery, housewares, and clothing. The Eureka Arcade is the one with the Patio Cafe at the end. The Patio will be open both Christmas Eve and Day and will serve festive specials. Sid's Pipe Dreams is heavily stocked with pipes and cigarettes. The Jerusalem Shop carries Mediterranean fashions and jewelry. Skin Zone has aromatic soaps and toiletries for every taste.

and Christmas trees. Rosie's Cantina is heavily decorated with wreaths and lights. The Jaguar Book Store carries verbal and pictorial literature for the discriminating cognoscenti. Snow Peas will be serving Christmas Eve dinner from 5:30 to 10:30. Entrees include salmon, lamb, and duckling. The Village Bar has a particularly nice tree, tinsel, and snowflakes everywhere.

And we're back on Castro for the home stretch. The Village Deli will close at 4 on Christmas Eve. I asked for Christmas coffee and got the strangest look. Why? The Obelisk carries pretty darn fabulous objets d'art. There's crystal, metal, ceramics, leather, and a special lapis pendant. Michael Osborn and Paul Turchetto created the silvery windows. Cliff's Hardware is doing land office business in every department. Hallmark Cards — well, there is truly something for everyone in the Castro. Nothing Special is decorated with white poinsettias, white ribbons, and funny dolls over the bar.

All American Boy is decorated with six real Christmas trees. His shelves are lined with fashions that could bring out the All-American boy latent in a Buddhist monk. Mrs. Fields is as sweet, chocolatey, and buttery at Christmas as any time, but Bakers of Paris is bringing out a special French marzipan pastry just for Christmas. There will also be a couronne bread and a candy cane bread. Double Rainbow has eggnog ice cream along with their usual flavors, and gift certificates are available. Twin Peaks will be closed on Christmas but will have its regular Saturday night



Orphan Andy's — Castro's 24-hour restaurant displays its crew and poinsettia. (Photo: Rink)

And we're back on 18th Street. Does Your Mother Know . . . has calendars — I lingered over the men of USC — cards, sunglasses, and T-shirts. The Latest Scoop has — at last — eggnog ice cream. My favorite! The Midnight Sun has cute teddies and Santas and a gingerbread house of the bar. The wall paintings remind me of Maurice Sendak. Jerry says that Floratek carries "just the best flowers in the world." Kitchen Privileges has unbreakable stainless steel thermoses in three sizes. Moby Dick is throwing "Dynasty" parties and is decorated with hanging garlands cleverly studded with gifts.

Need a nosh? Why not stop at Hot 'n' Hunky for a quick bite? Plant One on Me has poinsettias

leather pants at \$99 — for which the customer gets both the pants and a \$10 gift certificate.

Cramer's skill at merchandising and entrepreneurship included a brief excursion into manufacturing a line of shoulder and hand bags. He built Bay Bags into a thriving business, then sold it to a straight firm back East.

There are other success stories

BAY AREA REPORTER

party on Christmas Eve. Orphan Andy's will be closed Christmas Eve and Day but will open at 11 on Christmas Night. If you're feeling a little wobbly, stop for a bowl of chili before driving home. Leather Forever has vests, chaps, pants, shirts, and belts made either on the premises or nearby expressly for Leather Forever. Alterations are done within 48 hours. Hankies and jockstraps are yet another stocking stuffer idea.

The tree on Hibernia Beach deteriorates by the hour. Someone should put it out of its misery. Fortunately, the true value of Castro Street resides in something far more substantial than lights and tinsel.

B. Spunberg

the full length of Polk Street, but the biggest success story is Polk Street itself as a shopping and entertainment district. It survived in spite of the economy and hordes of seedy hustlers, and pride, both civic and personal, appears to be on the rebound.

Anyone whose shopping is not yet done may well enjoy Polk Street's celebration of the season.

POLITICS AND POKER



My Christmas Card

WAYNE FRIDAY

Despite losing his New York State campaign chairman because of his refusal to endorse Gay rights, Ohio's John Glenn says he will not reconsider his position. Glenn is hoping to make his stance on Gay rights a possible positive factor in his lagging campaign for the Demo nomination and is pointing out that Mondale's support of Gay rights only substantiates Glenn's claim that the former vice president is "promising all things to all people." Meanwhile, some Gay rights activists are privately

concerned that Senator Glenn might indeed pick up support from conservative Democratic delegates because of his anti-Gay stance, and these same Gay activists are hoping to downplay the New York incident for fear that the astronaut-turned-senator could actually use the resulting publicity to pick up support against the front-running Mondale. Senator Glenn issued a statement after losing his N.Y. campaign chairperson that said, "I deeply believe in civil liberties and social

justice for all Americans (all those Americans other than Gays apparently). That, however, is not the issue posed by legislation that would require the federal government to become involved in controversial questions concerning Gay rights and lifestyles."

Meanwhile, the issue of federal Gay rights legislation came up again in San Francisco last week when Alan Cranston told the *Chronicle's* Larry Liebert that he was more of a Gay rights advocate than was Mondale. Saying that he has a stronger record in support of Gay rights than Mondale does, Cranston claimed "it took him (Mondale) a long time to get as far as he's got; he has no legislative record on the issue, and I have." Meanwhile, the Gallup Poll released this week shows Mondale with a wide lead over Glenn, his nearest opponent. Mondale now leads the Ohio senator by a 47% to 19% margin, up from the 34% to 23% margin in October.

* * *

Responding to pressure from Gay activists, San Diego's pro-Gay Republican Mayor Roger Hedgecock lost no time in letting the California State Department of Corrections know that he wants no part of their reported plan to stash murderer Dan White in that southern city. • City Attorney George Agnost will marry Rosa Garcia, widow of the late Judge Louis Garcia next Friday. • If would-be mayor Gloria La Riva's supporters would spend a little time getting those ugly "La Riva for Mayor" signs down that they plastered all over public prop-



The 83-84 new Executive of CRIR: (l. to r.) Treasurer Al Martino; 2nd VP Chris Bowman; President Tom Peretti; 1st VP Ray Benson; Corresponding Secretary Mike Newell. (Photo: Rink)

some political, some not — but all people I care about); to my two best friends, the Galleon's chef, John Robertson, and my long-time roommate, Mick; to



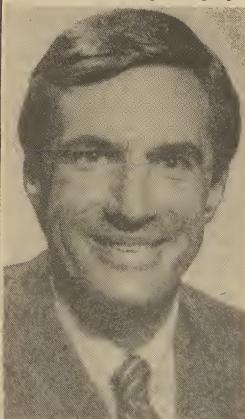
Joan Baez dedicates concert to Milk/Moscone memory.

Palm Springs; Tom Edwards; Gerry Parker; Troy Hignite; Anthony Garrett; Dick Pabich and Leon McKusick; Carole Migden; Duke Armstrong; Arlo and Helen Smith; Mike Hennessey and his Beverly; all the splendid customers of the New Bell Saloon.

Lucy and her customers at the White Swallow; Reba; Sweet Lips; Bob Golovich; Col. John Maloney; Scott Smith; John McCallum; Tim Brown of San Diego; Bill Maher; Doris Ward; Randy, John, Don, John, Doug, and the gang at Febe's; June and George Banda; Randy Stallings; Gwen Craig; Sal Rosselli.

Carolene and Milton Marks; Lia and Mel Belli; Sala Burton; the Polk Street employees of Headlines; Rod McKuen; Vic Macia and the cops at Mission; Barbara Boxer and Mike Housh of her Washington staff; Mr. Lincoln and Scott; Miguel and Matt; Uncle Donald Williams; David Kelsey and Pura Trash; Tom Merna; Chuckles and his Nick; Leo-Lita; Anne Kronenberg; Anne Daley; Jane McKaskle Murphy; Jo Daly; Jim Foster; Hadley Roff; Randy Shilts; Rink; Armando (Harry) of Walgreen's; Marque Murdoch; Bob Tanguay; the Pendulum gang; Paul Bentley; the employees of the S.F. Eagle; John Darker and Roger; and the many, many more I have not mentioned.

Special best wishes and God-speed to our brothers at San Francisco General's Ward 5B.



San Diego's Mayor Roger Hedgecock doesn't want Dan White in his city, either.

erty a lot of people would be pleased. • Joan Baez is dedicating her concert tomorrow night at the Warfield Theatre to the memory of George Moscone and Harvey Milk. • Jack Molinari's friends are more than happy over the popular supe's fundraiser a couple of weeks ago. The bash brought in more than \$70,000, in what has to be a record moneymaker for a supervisor (and they are already talking about a Molinari for Mayor race in a couple of years — the guy obviously has a lot of friends).

Alameda County Supervisor Joseph Bort will take over in February as president of the nine-county Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

* * *

The Castro and Polk Street Christmas decorations, as usual, look good this year with the obvious exception of the tree at Hibernia Bank — Ugly!! (Who decorated the thing anyway?)

This being the last column of the year (vacationing next week) let me, with the kind indulgence of my editor, Paul Lorch, and the state's best typesetter, Tony Lindsey, wish the best of the Holiday season to the following (some good friends, some not;



The Castro Christmas Tree for '83 looks bedraggled five days before the holiday. (Photo: Rink)

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GREATER BAY NEWS

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OAKLAND

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NEZ PAS

OUI-DIRE!

(A Remember Where You Read Those Rumors Nose?)

Murmurings around town have it that two (count 'em, two!) local watering spas will no longer be. As some bruit would have it, one will see its demise because the owner of the building is going to tear it down and put up a highrise. And some tittle-tattle has it that one will soon sing its swan song because the owner of the building wants some other kind of business on the premises. Strange... there hasn't been any canard as to whether or not the two license holders plan relocating.

Only time will tell if they are (closing) and if they will (re-

locate)!

INCOMMODING RETINUE?

(A Kid-Gloved Nose?)

I can't be anonymous about this one, so why try to disguise it? It's no rumor that trouble, disorder, and a pinch of agitation have confronted the neophyte and dean constituents of ACIE.

Friendships are falling apart, threats are being bandied around, and lots of accusations and denials tendered. Face-to-face confrontation was to have been the order of business at the last privy council-general membership meeting. I wasn't able to stay to see the sparks fly, but I'll wager it got hot and heavy!

My next interview should shed some light on the squabbles; but keep in mind, it will be one person's point of view. Don't "choose" me if you disagree with what is printed.

Alas, Jose! Where has all the fun gone? Where has all the money gone?

EPINICIAN FERAL?

(A Happy Nose?)

Discrimination against Gays and Lesbians in employment, housing, and city services will be prohibited when Oakland finishes drafting a new ordinance.

A unanimous vote by the City Council will assure homosexuals equal treatment similar to the ordinances passed by San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Joseph Acanfora III, speaking for the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, said that ample evidence exists about such discrimination against Oakland's approximately 35,000 homosexuals. (Got

(Continued on next page)

Gay Civil Rights Bill Passes First Hurdle in Oakland

A Lesbian/Gay civil rights bill similar to the ones in San Francisco and Berkeley was approved for introduction by the Oakland City Council on Tuesday evening, December 13, by a vote of 8 to 0. All members present voted in favor of the proposal, which was introduced by Councilmember Marge Gibson.

Planning, organization, and lobbying for the bill was the result of hard work by the East

Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club. At a candidates forum held last spring by the EBL/GDC, Oakland City Council candidates were asked to take a position on the bill. A club task force on the Oakland ordinance was formed over the summer and headed by Joe Acanfora. This fall, Councilmember Gibson communicated her willingness to introduce the ordinance, and the club began to organize

community support as well as lobby City Council members.

Support for the measure, which was authored by attorney Matt Coles, has come from all segments of the community — labor, women's groups, churches, political organizations, and business. The proposal essentially guarantees equality of opportunity for Lesbian and Gay citizens of Oakland in housing, employment, and services. The bill applies to the private as well as the public sector, and allows for compensatory and punitive damages.

The major work on the ordinance was done by club members Joe Acanfora, treasurer, and Suzy Ganz, corresponding secretary, with the help of a small group of dedicated volunteers. In speaking to the Council, Acanfora reminded them that "... we are everywhere. We are in every profession, every class, every race, nationality, and religion. We are men and women." He went on to state that "when all members of our community in all our diversity can live and work together in harmony, we become a stronger city and a more desirable place to live and work. It is time for Oakland to extend this spirit of harmony, cohesiveness, and civil rights protection to include its Lesbian and Gay citizens. Then, together we can work for a stronger city, and enjoy its diverse vitality."

Suzy Ganz read a letter by Richard Tuck, owner of two employment agencies in Oakland, testifying to discrimination he has personally witnessed. Four additional speakers urged the Council to pass a Gay rights ordinance. Some 60 to 70 supporters of the legislation filled the Council chambers. In addition to Councilmember Gibson, Councilmember Mary Moore and Mayor Lionel Wilson spoke in favor of the ordinance. The ordinance received an additional hearing, and vote, on December 20, with the last such procedure scheduled for January 10.

All those supporting this long-awaited measure are urged to attend the Oakland City Council meetings on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM, at 14th St. and City Council Way (formerly Washington), a block from Broadway. Call 843-2459 or 654-8605 for information.



EBL/GDC Treasurer Joe Acanfora with Oakland Councilmember Marge Gibson, who introduced the Gay/Lesbian civil rights bill.



At the recent annual Holiday Party of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, the Executive Committee in unanimous agreement awarded to veteran Berkeley Gay activist Leland Trainor (l.) an award for his significant contributions to the struggle for Gay freedom in its most difficult years. The award was presented by City Councilmember Wilson Riles, Jr. of Oakland, to the enthusiastic applause of the many in attendance. In addition to being a medical professional, Leland is one of the club's members elected to the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, a founding member of the EBL/GDC, and its first Political Action Chair. Among those present were (l. to r.) Berkeley Mayor Gus Newport, Laurie Glenn (aide to Assemblymember Tom Bates (D-Oak.)), and EBL/GDC president Armand Boulay, as well as Santa Cruz Mayor John Laird and several elected officials from Oakland and Berkeley. ■

Need a Gay Doctor in East Bay?

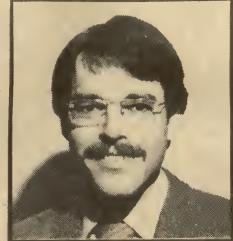
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Visions '84 for South Bay Center

The Billy deFrank Lesbian/Gay Community Center has announced plans for a month long fundraising drive scheduled for January. Board President Mary Ann Sullivan was quoted as saying, "1984 has to be the year we take that big step and move to larger quarters and greatly expand our community outreach and services."

Plans for 1984 include a move to larger quarters. It is noted that current rent which runs \$540 would probably be tripled to over \$1500 by a move. Current Center Director Frank O'Reilly stressed the need for the Center to hire a full time paid director. This would mean a big commitment on the part of the Center. However, O'Reilly noted that the job currently takes at least 20 hours a week of his time with many things left undone due to his full time employment in private industry.

Programs at the Center are in desperate need of expansion. Most of those expansion plans are hampered by space or money considerations. Many community groups have been turned away from meeting at the Center due to the lack of adequate meeting space. Expanding existing programs or providing

new programs has also been hampered by a lack of funds.

The San Jose Lesbian and Gay Archives, housed in the Community Center, is a collection of over 4500 Lesbian and Gay related material. The archives play an important part in preserving our Gay heritage for future generations. Presently housed in the archives are records from the Gay rights ordinance struggle in 1980, a wealth of material on AIDS, and books and papers on Jerry Falwell and the Moral Majority.

Fundraising events will be held throughout the community during the month of January and everyone is urged to support at least one of these events. For further information please contact Board Vice-President David Treadwell at 293-AGAY.

Diablo Rap

The Friday Night Rap Support Group at the Diablo Valley Community Center on Friday, December 30, at 8 PM, will discuss New Directions: Starting Today; "you can select your own goals intelligently and responsibly." Info: 674-0171.

OAKLAND

(Continued from previous page) that, Mayor Wilson?).

We should all remember that Councilmember Marge Gibson requested that ordinance — especially at election time!

It was stated that violators of the ordinance would be subject to a \$50 fine for each offense and would be subject to civil action. It seems like too small of an amount, but, by God, it is now on the books!

Three cheers to Joe and all the other representatives of Gay groups who implored the council to adopt the ordinance.

NEZ' NOTES:

The Lake Lounge features Cynthia at the piano Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 5 to 9 PM, Sundays from 3 to 7 PM.

Diablo Crisis Line

A Gay Crisis Line has been established for those holiday stresses. Volunteers are trained and calls are confidential, so don't hesitate to call if you need support or help during the holidays. Hours of operation are 7 to 10 PM, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. The number is 674-0171.



Celebrating 'Til They're 50. Bartenders at the White Horse haven't told the anniversary has passed; the party still goes on . . . (Photo: Rink)

Two after-hours parties on New Year's Eve:

Bring in the New Year Right. Party at the Brat all night! The Spoiled Brat will stay open all night (NO booze after 2 AM, however!) with a light buffet at 3 AM. Booze will be allowed again at 6 AM, when the bar officially opens for 1984! No cover charge.

Revolutionary and Sassy's will stay open until at least 3 AM, serving special munchies in Sassy's dining room, and coffee and soft drinks at the bar. Before the New Year, there will be special drink prices at special times and crazy prices at crazy times! Of course, traditional complimentary champagne at midnight.

Other upcoming events:

The Miss \$1.98 Beauty Contest will be coming to the Lake Lounge soon! It will be a benefit for S.F. General Hospital. The contest will feature raffles, prizes, and a show. Anyone interested in entertaining should contact Carlos at the Lake Merritt Hotel, 332-3200. Admission is free, but toilet articles may be donated for this affair.

The 4th Annual Chili Cook-off will be Monday night, January 16, at Revol. All proceeds from the \$3 entry fee and the buck-a-bowl sales will go directly to Alameda County Special

Olympics. Entry blanks and information available from the bar. Judges this year include representatives from Bench & Bar, Lake Lounge, Lancers, Ollie's, Town & Country, and White Horse. And, what would be a chili cook-off without Lou Greene? Also, if anyone knows Robert C. (last year's winner) please tell him that he is to be a judge too. First prize is \$75 and a trophy; Second, \$50 and a trophy; Third, \$25. PLUS, Daddy David will have a "special" Revolutionary running all evening.

Next Sunday is Christmas. May you spend it with someone you love, and may someone who loves you be with you.

Christmas Greetings

from the
East Bay Community
to B.A.R.
readers everywhere!

Love,

Nez

From Castro to Christopher

Photography by Nicholas Blair



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The Ever-Growing Bay Area Reporter

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
TO YOU AND YOURS
FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE BAY AREA REPORTER



BAY AREA REPORTER

ENTERTAINMENT

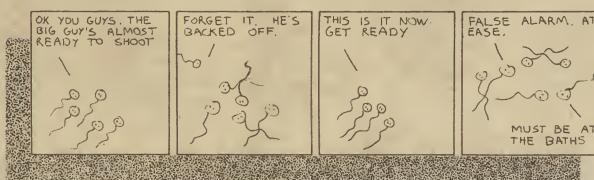
BARBS

BARBS

BARBS

A special — but naughty — Christmas cartoon by *Pumps* cartoonist Dug Figley appears on page 35.

NUTS by Mike Drew

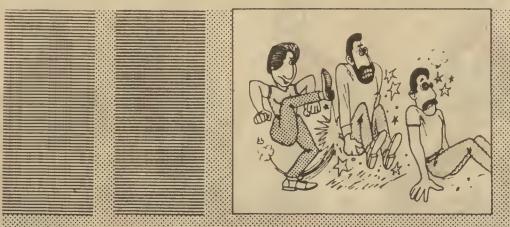


UNCUT by Hughes #03

GAY G.A.B. ADE

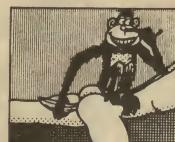
Undercover Employee Nabs Men Stealing Kiss

"They were just about to hug when I busted 'em," exclaimed Lotta Piles, Incognito Manager of Popular *Gin Tweaks Tavern*



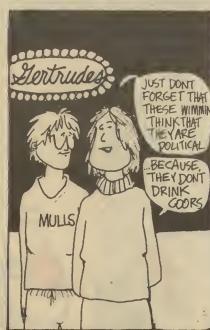
Breakthrough in Detour's Syndrome

Renowned Dermatologist Points Finger at Chain Link Fence



Medium receives message from Jayne Mansfield...
"Billy, don't lose your head by believing your own hype."

BIG D'AND LITTLE IKE



A Couple of Authors

by Steve Warren

Had Drs. David P. McWhirter and Andrew M. Mattison been tarantulas they might have written a brilliant work about the mating habits of spiders. Fortunately for all but the most avid arachnophiles among us, Dave and Drew are a Gay male couple. Their book is *The Male Couple: How Relationships Develop* (Prentice-Hall, \$16.95).

Based on five years of interviews with 156 male couples who had lived together (a criterion for their definition of a couple) anywhere from one to 37 years, *The Male Couple* begins by affirming that "Gay men can and do establish long-term, committed relationships, which are characterized by stability, mutual caring, generosity, creativity, love, support, and nurturing." It then proceeds to provide information which should make the road easier for present and future couples to travel.



What's Up, Doc? Andrew M. Mattison (l.) and David McWhirter have been a "Male Couple" for 12 years.

Dave — Dr. McWhirter; but putting people at ease is these guys' business, so it's first names all the way — emphasizes the nonjudgmental nature of their work: "We don't say it's better to be in a couple than to be single . . . We also don't say that it's better to be in a long-term relationship —"

"The endurance record," Drew contributes.

The book makes a point of the "social scripting" that teaches men from birth to strive and compete, so that when two of them enter into a relationship, "The obvious potential for clash, competition and dissidence is very high." It can be overcome by an equalizing process which begins early on and leads to "complementarity," the balancing of each other's shortcomings. This sometimes includes "planned incompetence," in which one man will "unlearn" a skill (e.g., cooking) because he knows his partner would rather do it.

The natural competitiveness takes other forms in later years; and that inspires a perfectly natural question which no one else had ever asked these two authors who have been a couple for 12 years: How did you decide who gets top billing on the book?

"It's never been an issue," they agree, momentarily seeming puzzled as if they really hadn't considered it before. Dave finally attributes it to the fact that he, at 51, is 16 years Drew's senior and was already a practicing psychotherapist when they met. "Drew has seen me as one of his mentors . . . I think we're at a point now where we're equalized and could go either way (on the next book)."

Of the 156 couples interviewed, two thirds were no more than three years apart in age; but the relationships which had lasted longest were between men with at least five years' age difference.

Drew says they were "careful not to do too much speculation

about that, but factors of power, control and competition come less into play when there is a wide separation in age."

Several points make questionable the universal applicability of the book, as the authors are the first to admit. The limitations of their small sample, for instance — mostly middle class whites in southern California — might be greeted with suspicion by a poor black couple in the midwest or an interracial pair in the northeast. This has also been a time of rapid social change. Some of the couples interviewed reflected radical changes between 1974 and 1979 and have presumably continued to change. Most of the men were old enough to have come out before Stonewall and thus were raised with different mindsets from many of today's younger Gays.

Finally, pressure from the AIDS crisis is driving some men into relationships and changing the ground rules of many existing couples. Sexual exclusivity was not a hard and fast rule of any couple interviewed who had been together for more than five years, but that might not be true today.

With all these factors — and another major one we'll get to in a moment — working against their study, we inquired with our usual tact, why bother to publish it?

Here a word of explanation is in order about the staging theory which forms the core of the book. It is, as they readily admit, mostly common sense material — "simple," says Dave; "a statement of the obvious," Drew concurs — and yet it had never before been articulated in this manner.

What it says is that each male-male relationship goes through six identifiable stages. While the time periods may not be the same for all couples — or even for both members of the same couple — and some characteristics may show up at different times, enough consistency was found among the couples stud-

ied to pinpoint the following stages with their attendant characteristics:

Stage One — Blending (Year One): merging, limerence*, equalizing of partnership, high sexual activity. (*Limerence — pronounced with a soft "i" as in "limerick" was coined by Dorothy Tennov in *Love and Limerence* to describe "the state of falling in love or being romantically in love.")

Stage Two — Nesting (Years 2 and 3): homemaking, finding compatibility, decline of limerence, ambivalence;

Stage Three — Maintaining (Years 4 and 5): reappearance of the individual, risk taking, dealing with conflict, establishing traditions;

Stage Four — Building (Years 6-10): collaborating, increasing productivity, establishing independence, dependability of partners;

Stage Five — Releasing (Years 11-20): trusting, merging of money and possessions, constricting, taking each other for granted;

Stage Six — Renewing (beyond 20 years): achieving security, shifting perspectives, restoring the partnership, remembering.

Because this was exactly the sort of structured knowledge McWhirter and Mattison needed in their own clinical work, they knew it would be useful to

other psychologists and, to a certain extent, to laypeople as well. They tried it on lecture audiences and found it created great excitement. A colleague to whom they sent the manuscript for comment said he was depressed for two days because the book made him aware of so many mistakes he had in his own relationships.

"What we've discovered about stages was so valuable," they say in response to the tacky question on the floor, "we had to write this book."

Let's consider the other problem we alluded to earlier. You've got this chart of the stages male couples go through. Now you can hang it on the wall and measure your relationship against it, right? You can see whether you're on schedule in your feelings, activities, problems and accomplishments. If so, you have nothing to worry about; if not, you'd better make an appointment to see McWhirter or Mattison at the Clinical Institute for Human Relationships in San Diego. Isn't that right?

Certainly not! As we pointed out before, every individual is different, and so is every couple. It can be reassuring to learn that your crisis is not unique and to gain insight into how other couples have survived it, but it would be dangerous to expect or try to make your situation conform to a mythical "norm."

The important thing, Dave stresses, is that male couples have not had a role model until now, except for those few (mostly older) men whose relationships have been patterned on heterosexual marriages.

Initial consideration was given, Drew says, to publishing their findings strictly for a scientific audience; but this idea was abandoned somewhere along the way. "I really believe in the intelligence of our readers," Dave says, to make wise use of the material that applies to them. Many of the book's caveats which point out its limitations were included at the publisher's request, he adds — "The disclaimers are there so we cover our ass" — to point out obvious flaws before their peers and critics do.

The doctors illustrate the sort of problems they see in their practice with a couple, one of whom came from a well-to-do family and is in the habit of going out and buying three shirts when he's depressed. His mate, who had been accustomed to being more careful with money, took care of finances for the household. When he saw a bill for three shirts he thought his lover had bought them to spite him for some imagined offense.

It was really an individual problem — one man's way of dealing with depression — but without a clear perspective the men saw it as a problem in their relationship. "What's wrong with us as a couple?" is the question people are quick to ask, and *The Male Couple* will show them that nothing is wrong, or at least nothing unusual that a little communication and understanding can't fix.

Irrational anger is often perceived as a danger sign, when it may just be a letting off of steam from a bad day at the office. "Who else is gonna take it out on?" Drew asks of the man who blows up at his spouse. "His boss?"

An important aspect of the book which is often overlooked is the anecdotes which are liberally sprinkled through several

(Continued on next page)

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MUSIC

Musical Love Expressed Directly

by Bernard Spunberg

Warm hearts and generous spirits expressed love overflowing during the Golden Gate Performing Arts Association's December 18 Christmas concert, *Now Sing With Hearts Aglow*, to be repeated at Nourse Auditorium on Christmas Eve. Far more than just a joint concert by the SF Gay Men's Chorus, the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band, the Lesbian/Gay Chorus, the Vocal Minority, and their subsidiary ensembles, *Now Sing With Hearts Aglow* made total strangers grin at each other like the sisters and brothers they really are. Gay pride? Gay unity? They're real, but they're only abstractions. Thunderous applause following a polished performance, witty scenery and costumes reflecting dedicated labor, audiences caroling uncontrollably as they exit — these signs of the love that binds are material proof of the reality summed up by the abstractions.

The audience, of course, is part of the experience, so do come prepared to see and be seen. One drag favored us with a simple green satin wrap-around skirt, white boots, shawl, and Christmas tree ball corsage with matching earrings. The leather crowd decorated their chaps and other accoutrements with red and green ribbons and tinsel.

The celebration began with members of the Gay Men's Chorus ringing pitched bells with musically precision. Jakob Handel's "O Magnum Mysterium" was performed by the GMC and Director Ernest Venegas with tone blended and homogenous but too small to rise and swell throughout Nourse Auditorium.

The Chamber Singers, part of the Gay Men's Chorus, were led by Robert Erickson. Their "Caroling, Caroling" made a jolly little opener. "All Bleak and Chill the Wintry Wind" was sung with tender, sweet tone, as was Randall Thompson's "The Pasture."

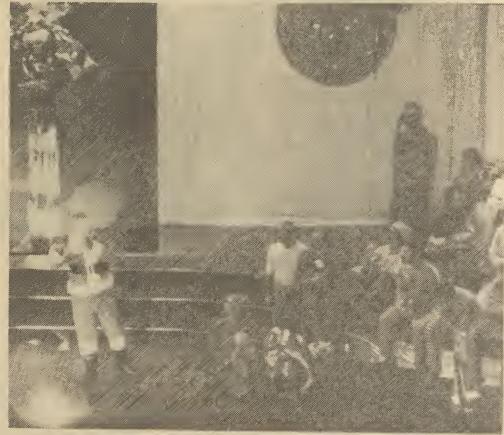
The entire GMC returned with three carols by Alfred Burt, of which "Some Children See Him" was distinguished by free and easy solo singing by Ray Ankrom. "Do You Hear What I Hear" was complemented by Bob Stuart Murphy's virile, expressive dancing. "Two Kings" was sung with the full, burnished tone expected of the GMC. Their blend was rich, unforced, and blended throughout

the sections.

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus was led by Matthew O'Grady. Though "This Little Babe" from Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* was a bit of a scramble, "The Sleigh (la Russe)" by Tchervanow was a tasty little bonbon. Pergolesi's *Magnificat* was sung with light, transparent tone. Inner voices were clear, and the whole performance was leavened by bouncy rhythms. The challenging piano accompaniment was dashed off by Bill Ganz. "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" was brisk and unsentimental. Philip Hagemann and Penny Leka's "Fruitcake" is insubstantial musicality, but it's delicious theatre. The Chorus assumed the identities of fruitcake ingredients to sing a

"Flowers" from *The Nutcracker*, graced by a limpid clarinet solo followed by lifting rhythms that had the audience swaying. Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" and Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" found the Band in lusty high spirits, with the flutes turning their accompanying figures into virtuosic highlights. Close scrutiny revealed a teeny stocking hanging from a trumpet and a tuba almost completely camouflaged by tinsel.

The finale is loaded with surprises masterminded by stage director Walter M. Mayes and set creators John Krause and Frank Lubrano. There are elaborate costumes, scene changes, a medley of Christmas tunes from Broadway shows — the audience applauds, stamps, laughs, cheers, and screams while signer for the deaf Stephen Lazar's arms blur like an airplane propeller. The surprises won't be ruined if you know that ten men dressed in little-boy jammies sing "I Saw Daddy



Campy Claus. Pajama-clad choristers meet a cut-up Santa during the finale of *Now Sing With Hearts Aglow*.

recipe that brought down the house.

The Vocal Minority, led by Bill Ganz, made a sound much bigger than their numbers promised. Their Irving Berlin medley was smoothly blended, as were their "Scenes of Christmas" and "Coventry Carol." "Swing Jingle Bells" ended with short, unaccompanied, chromatic coda followed by piano chords, an acid test for intonation the Minority passed with flying colors.

The Gay Freedom Day Marching Band was led by Lesesne Van Antwerp in a rousing "Procession of the Nobles" by Rimsky-Korsakov. J.S. Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Men's Desiring" was excruciating, but soon gave way to a "Waltz of the

Kissing Santa Claus" and that Ernie Venegas comes on stage wearing tight yellow and gray baseball drag and carrying a teddy bear as big as he is.

Carols sung by the Chorus and audience close the performance, and in some ways summarize the meaning and significance of the evening. Not really a concert, *Now Sing With Hearts Aglow* is an opportunity for the participants to cast aside formality and express their love for each other and their community directly. And when love is expressed directly, there is only one possible response. ■

Now Sing With Hearts Aglow
Nourse Auditorium
December 24; 864-0326

MALE COUPLE

(Continued from previous page)

chapters — descriptions of individuals and couples and stories they tell which bring the points being made from the theoretical to the human level. It's the *Word Is Out* technique of giving us people we can relate to, and it's used with extreme effectiveness. I lost track of the times I was moved to tears by seeing my private feelings expressed by someone else.

And what a comfort to know that limerence needn't go away when acne does! I still fall in love at my age without being a social retard!

It seems harder these days to find someone to fall in love with, who is willing to make a commitment. While the book doesn't touch on this — it deals only with existing relationships — the mention of it sets Dave off on a

topic that concerns him more than coupling:

"That's a new phenomenon . . . and I blame it on nuclear anxiety, which has put us in a tremendous state of insecurity . . .

There's never been a time like this. There's not a place in the world where there isn't some kind of war going on, and we seem to be involved in all of them." With the nuclear threat hanging over us all, he says, people are more inclined to live from moment to moment. "The number one problem in the world is nuclear bombs . . . If we could solve that problem we'd have a whole new set — a whole new stage to act out our life on."

* * *

The next-to-last chapter of *The Male Couple* lists several topics for future research. McWhirter and Mattison haven't zeroed in on one of those for their next book, but say they hope others

will pick up the ball and run with it, especially in doing matching studies about Lesbian couples and heterosexual — or what Drew calls "opposite sex couples."

Another unexplored area is the extended "Gay family," which Drew sees as being "a separate category between single and coupled." These people are not alone, but neither do they rely on a sole or even primary partner to meet all their needs.

As for Dave and Drew, they want to continue testing their staging theory by applying it in clinical practice and in seminar /workshops around the country.

The many small, affectionate gestures the authors exchange in the course of the interview suggest that they may be behind schedule in the Stage Five characteristic taking each other for granted. But they should worry! They wrote the book on it! ■

S. Warren

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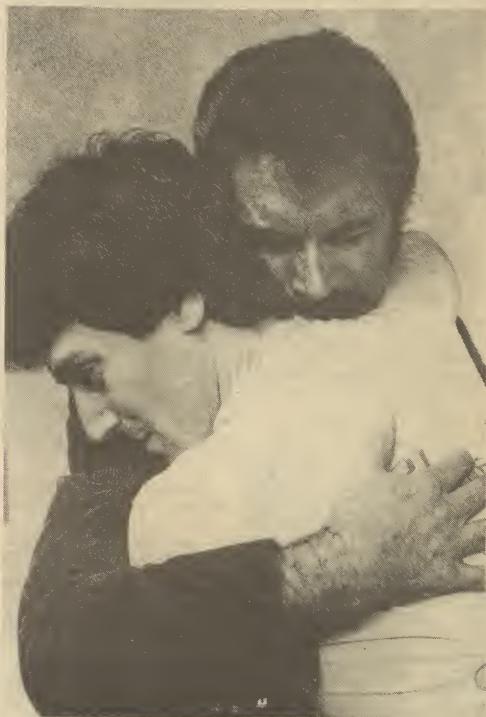
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STAGE

Milking the Question

by Bernard Spunberg



Embrace Before the Kill. Richard Rekow (rear) hugs David Frank before setting out to kill Dan White in *Oh, Danny Boy* at the Julian Theatre.

Churning emotions and politics defy succinct dramatization. SF State philosophy professor A.K. Bierman successfully limited himself to a single aspect of the Dan White horror in his drama *Oh, Danny Boy*, currently in production at the Julian Theatre.

When faced with a gross miscarriage of justice, what should the thoughtful, responsible citizen do? Should he swallow his rage, excusing the miscarriage as unfortunate but inevitable

given an imperfect legal system? Or should he take matters into his own hands?

Richard Rekow, who has co-directed *Oh, Danny Boy* with David Parr, plays a literature professor turned reporter for a San Francisco Gay newspaper. He's consumed by rage over the Moscone-Milli assassinations and, despite the pleas of his lover (Fred Hartman), his nephew (David Frank), and his neighbor (Peter Fitzsimmons), Rekow

(Continued on page 28)

Wonton Wonderment

by Michael Lasky

There's this guy with a forked tongue who catches lemons on it as people throw them from the audience — while he's riding a unicycle. Big deal, you say?



Chair Flair. The Taiwan Magic Circus is never out of balance.

There's this guy with a silly grin who swallows swords — watch him and you could learn something. Big deal, he probably uses collapsible props, right? To prove he doesn't he takes a long fluorescent light bulb, swallows it, and then with the house lights off, he turns it on. Gross, but effective.

If balancing acts, acrobatics with a gimmick, juggling, kung-fu, and some mindboggling human pyramiding are your pot-sticker, then you'll find a two-hour feast at the Marines Memorial where the incredible Chinese Magic Circus of Taiwan bombards audiences with nonstop feats. Even the most jaded cynic is eventually taken in by the dance of the lions, two men who perform gymnastic movements while coordinating a colorful dragon costume which resembles the old burlesque horsie.

Not without a sense of humor, the Chinese Magic Circus is accompanied by a prerecorded soundtrack which slowly becomes grating, given the cacophonous nature of the Oriental muzak. But that's the only complaint about an otherwise entertaining evening that eventually hooks you. I walked in saying "big deal," and left saying Big Deal!

Chinese Magic Circus of Taiwan
Marines Memorial Theatre
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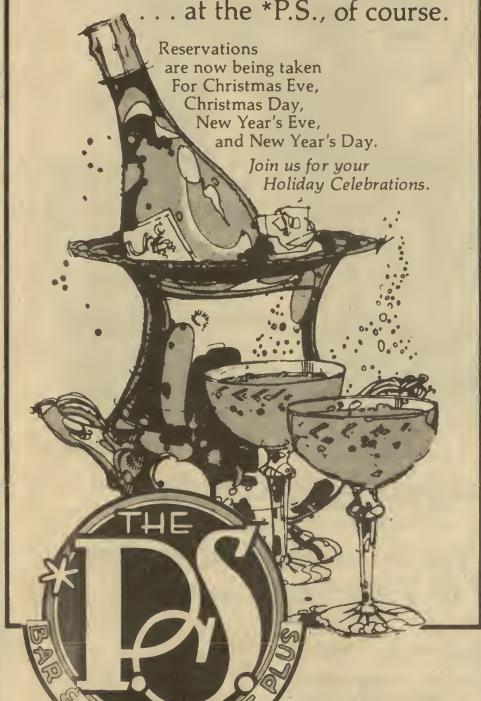


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FILM CLIPS

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY AND STEVE WARREN

If you've already seen *Yentl* and are wary of this season's glut of guns and gore, two exceptional dance movies are at your rescue. *Carmen* is an excitingly theatrical and sexy backstage story, reviewed below by Steve Warren. *Backstage at the Kirov* is a balletoman's feast, allowing Western eyes an in-depth look at the legendary company as it prepares for its 200th Anniversary with a *Swan Lake* performance. Dance writer Keith White reviews the movie in this week's "From Fifth Position" on page 28.

that make every move look sensual. While his masculinity is evident when the leading lady visits him at home, he's sufficiently in touch with his other side to demonstrate how she can put more femininity into her dancing.

In addition to a few sequences from *Carmen* in rehearsal, the range of flamenco is shown in everything from Gades' *jarruca*, a kind of mating dance, and a cane "duel" with del Sol's husband to classic scenes that could come from *A Chorus Line*, to a clownish bullfight at a party.

Some of Bizet's music is used (via recordings of the opera by Regina Resnik and Mario del Monaco); some rearranged or replaced by onscreen composer-guitarist Paco de Lucia, who gives the original a low rating because it was written to accompany the voice and you can't dance to it.

Gades proves you can dance to just about anything and Saura's cameras capture it all excitingly in what may well be the sexiest movie of 1983. ■

(Gateway) S. Warren

Carmen

Worth Stomping About

Carlos Saura's *Carmen* is a fictionalized documentary on the making of *Carmen*, Antonio Gades' flamenco version of the Bizet opera.

Unable to cast the title role within his company, Gades discovers Laura del Sol, who re-

minds him of his ideal Carmen, or some Carmen he has known. This arouses the jealousy of Cristina Hoyos, his ballet mistress whose "Carmen" days are behind her, but she agrees to help train the youngster. The love and jealousy of the opera become the themes of the off-stage story until they end as one.

Gades dances and teaches with an intensity and passion



West Side Sequidilla. In a fiery dance, Carmen (Laura del Sol, seated) is taunted by a jealous rival (Cristina Hoyos) in one of many exciting scenes in *Carmen*.

Gorky Park

Breeders or Not Worth Russian to See

Love vs. duty, spy vs. counterspy, local police vs. federal agents — we've seen these conflicts in thousands of American westerns, police, and spy thrillers.

Gorky Park blends these and other familiar elements into a stock murder mystery format, and by transposing the whole kaboodle to Moscow almost makes it look fresh.

We've also seen movies about women who would do anything for a sable. In this case it's men and women who are after the beasties — but they want them alive. The idea is to transport an ark's worth to the U.S. to break the communist monopoly on the creatures. (A few more statistics might have explained why this is important enough to motivate a triple murder and the convoluted shenanigans which follow.)

William Hurt, chief investigator of the Moscow police describes himself as a "plodder": "I watch, think, and wait

. . . then I pounce." Unfortunately, we have to plod with him through much of *Gorky Park* before things begin to make sense, as he plays cat and mouse (but which is which?) with American businessman Lee Marvin and pursues Joanna Pacula for romantic as well as professional reasons.

It's all a setup for the climax in which a planned triple cross has several more crosses added, and the complicity is revealed of characters we knew from the start had to be involved.

Director Michael Apted has done a fairly polished job of presenting all this, but he fails to make it an exciting or absorbing as it might be. He allows most of the cast (except the Polish Pacula) to use vaguely British accents for Russian.

Considering the opportunities offered by the setting (the role of Moscow is played by Helsinki, Finland), Dennis Potter's screenplay is surprisingly apolitical, except for an occasional good line like "KGB . . . cannot work outside the law. Otherwise they'd be no better than the CIA." ■

(Galaxy) S. Warren

Heart Like A Wheel

Drive, She Said

Let's face it: would you go to a movie described as part drag racing, part feminist message? Although *Heart*

Like A Wheel is set in the drag racing milieu, with all the obnoxious blue collar rednecks that inhabit it, and possessing a certain feminist attitude, this film transcends both to become a surprisingly entertaining, uplifting film.

Directed by Jonathan Kaplan, *HLAW* is based on the true life story



Racy Wedding. Bonnie Bedelia portrays hot rod driver Shirley Muldowney, racing on her wedding day, in *Heart Like A Wheel*.

of hot rod driver Shirley Muldowney, portrayed in the film by look-alike actress Bonnie Bedelia. From the time she was four years old and daddy Hoyt Axton put her on his knee behind the wheel of his sedan, Shirley got a physical charge from driving and driving fast. Fighting the expected chauvinism in a male-dominated sport, Muldowney not only proved that "the little woman" could do it, but did it better than most of the men who didn't want to compete with her. (She is the only driver, male or female, to win the National Hot Rod Association World Championship three times.)

But it ain't easy being a champion and the film explores the emotional undercurrents of a woman who stood up for what she wanted in life. Fighting male ego, mixing oil and tears, and exploring the incredible dangers of the sport, Bedelia gives a performance full of fire that makes us feel the inner excitement, the thrill, the visceral experience of drag racing.

Singularly the best performance by an actress this year, Bedelia's portrayal and Kaplan's brisk pacing together make *Heart Like A Wheel* an exciting experience. ■

(Ghirardelli Square) M. Lasky

FILM CLIPS

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY AND STEVE WARREN



Wrong Way, Girl! Perhaps that's how she was taught Down Under, but Olivia seems to be turning her head the wrong way. Travolta fans are turning their heads from his new movie, Two of a Kind.

The Keep

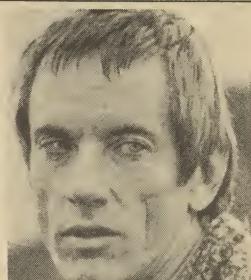
Supernaziral

Amityville had its subterranean well and Poltergeist its closet. The Keep shrouds its Evil in fog and sometimes hides it in a kind of cosmic launch chute.

The Nazis take over this strategic Roman fortress to guard a pass through the Carpathian Alps, but Something starts killing them. They call in a Jew, Prof. Ian McKellen, to fight it, and he brings along his beautiful daughter, Alberta Watson.

Scott Glenn, "a traveler . . . from everywhere," is locked in eternal struggle with Whatever the Fuck It Is, so he too joins the fight.

Most scenes in The Keep are too bright, too dark, or too smoky for us to tell what's going on, and the dialogue is either drowned out by Tangerine Dream's score or Dolbyized into indecipherability. It all creates a hypnotic effect that can put you to sleep if boredom doesn't do it first. Do try to wake up when the smoke clears, for a glimpse of the man in the rubber suit



Keep It. Scott Glenn confronts evil in The Keep, his hot stuff cooled down by the foggy flick.

who's been causing all the trouble.

Director Michael Mann has lavished a great deal of care on The Keep, and there must be a cult somewhere that will appreciate his effort; but for the rest of us, they could have thrown away The Keep.

(Royal) S. Warren

Sudden Impact

Magnum P.U.

Sudden Impact begins with Bruce Surtees' lovely night photography of San Francisco accompanied by Lalo Schifrin's theme riddled with synthesized gunfire.

The sound effects are soon replaced by the real thing — "a .38 caliber vaseomy" in a car parked at Land's End. It's only Sandra Locke starting her vengeance on the men (and one woman — Audrie J. Neenan) who raped her and her little sister ten years before.

It's almost an hour before Locke meets Inspector Harry Callahan (Clint

Eastwood), who by then has killed about ten people in the line of duty. After that the questions are: Who can pile up more bodies? Will their ideas of moral justification finally coincide? And Can you get a man with a gun (with apologies to Irving Berlin)?

Someday Clint Eastwood will be recognized as a damned good director of this kind of movie. If you can laugh at this kind of cartoon violence — and the brutality against women is intense, but so is their revenge including the heavy-handed symbolism of the *coup de grace* — let Dirty Harry go ahead and make your day.

(Coliseum, Galaxy, Serra) S. Warren

D.C. Cab

Hackers

If you liked Car Wash don't miss D.C. Cab, another ensemble comedy with a disco beat and mentality to match that juggles enough plots and characters to ride out the rough spots in its script and production.

Written, directed, and co-produced by Joel Schumacher, the Guy man who wrote Car Wash and Sparkle and directed The Incredible Shrinking Woman, D.C. Cab scores telling points about racism, corruption, and other social ills without ever becoming heavy.

Cute young Adam Baldwin comes to the nation's capital (most of which looks like studio sets and southern California streets) from Locust Grove, GA, in "the NEW south, where we're all brothers." He wants to drive a cab for his late father's war buddy Max Gail, who runs D.C. Cab, the funkiest fleet in town.

Already working for the company are "the eight stooges," including Mr. T, who tries to keep the ghetto kids from the pusher's clutches; Paul



I Could Cara. Irene Cara sparks D.C. Cab with a dance hit.

Rodriguez, who wants to be an "American gigolo;" Marsha Warfield, the best driver, who keeps threatening to go to work for a good company; DeWayne Jessie (a good actor wasted in a one-joke part), a "Rasta" from Cleveland; Charlie Barnett, an angry black too confused to know what he's angry about; and Gary Busey (who sank so low so fast after The Buddy Holly Story), who says he lives in

Two of a Kind

One Sings,
The Other Doesn't

John Travolta said in an interview that he and Olivia Newton-John wanted to repeat their Grease success, but couldn't find anything suitable until they found this script.

I'm beginning to think Travolta is just a good looking but slightly dumb kid who happened to luck out. He selected this script willfully?

It's a sappy little movie that starts in heaven with God (represented by a beam of light that looks like a Wizard of Oz left-over) and his Guardian Angel debating the worthiness of man. God wants to flood morally corrupt mankind out and makes a bet about our worth with his Angels, who want to prove that some of us are good.

So they change the life of Travolta, mix him up with Olivia, and get embroiled in a fight with the devil, Oliver Reed. It's all quite silly fantasy, something a stoned 13-year-old might enjoy. Newton-John sings a few songs. Travolta takes off his shirt. God loses his bet.

(Alexandria) M. Lasky

Uncommon Valor

No Colonel of Truth

"No one can dispute the rightness of what we're doing," Gene Hackman tells the six men who will go with him to Laos to try to rescue his son from the prison camp where he's been for more than a decade.

MIA — Missing in Action — was the dumbest acronym going until PWA came to stand for People with AIDS. A newscast in the title sequence of Uncommon Valor reminds us, "For the families of the remaining MIA's the Vietnam war will never be over."

Hackman, a retired colonel, wants to get his part of the war over with by bringing home his son and the son of Robert Stack, who is bankrolling the operation. The team he assembles is made up of five men who served with them, plus young Patrick Swayze, whose father is also an MIA.

That's the timely excuse for a formula movie about a commando mission. It comes in the usual three parts: recruitment, training, and Go for it!

Ted Kotcheff, the Canadian director who proved he could handle action with First Blood, lets the pace lag a little more this time as he keeps stopping to convince us — or himself — that the end justifies the means. The harder he tries, the less I believe there's really a reason for blowing up dozens of nameless Orientals.

Maybe after Scarface, Christine, and Sudden Impact I've just had enough killing for one Christmas season. Even Gene Hackman doesn't make Uncommon Valor uncommon.

(Alhambra, Empire, Serramonte) S. Warren

D.C. so he can be a "token white" when the "nigs" take over.

Typical of Busey's dialogue, which consists largely of piglike squeals and grunts, is the joke, "You know what's the only thing wrong with oral sex? . . . The view," which shows how much heterosexuals know. Mr. T is camp to the max, overplaying his brainless brawniness in outfits that look like oversized, multicolored Superman suits, and trying to ignore the fact that this movie was obviously made by the "B" team.

Giorgio Moroder provided the music, which should yield about three hits before it's through. One of those is sung by Irene Cara, who makes a guest appearance roughly equivalent to Richard Pryor's in Car Wash.

The ensemble acting underscores the movie's lesson about ensemble living: that oppressed people can help each other make it if they work together. The message is hardly more subtle than the jokes, old and new; but if you go to the movies for entertainment you'll get more out of D.C. Cab than a dozen Fanny and Alexander's.

(Alhambra, Esquire, Serramonte) S. Warren

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Former dancer Derek Hart is responsible for a beautifully realized documentary film, *Backstage at the Kirov*, which opened Thursday at the Lumière. The first Western filmmaker to be allowed such access, Hart spent four years in planning and six weeks on location in and around the Kirov Theatre and its school, the Vaganova Choreographic Institute. Released in time for the Kirov's 200th anniversary, the film was shown on Soviet television almost as soon as it was finished, and with justifiable pride; *Backstage at the Kirov* pays magnificent homage to the company. But what the film really celebrates is Derek Hart's love affair with ballet. Every frame is tinged with a passion almost as obsessive as the act of dancing itself.

The educational and historic elements of the documentary were pieced together with the glowing warmth of a family album. Rare footage of pre-

revolutionary Russia is shown against the sweetest of Tchaikovsky's strains from the Prologue of *Sleeping Beauty*, and when the narrator begins saying "St. Petersburg was a magical city . . ." we gain a sense of Imperial Russia in which classical ballet reached its highest development. In casual interviews the Kirov's dancers and teachers share their insights about training and performing, while classroom footage presents the method in action.

Every aspect of *Backstage at the Kirov* is successful, but the

Backstage at the Kirov is a love affair with ballet. Every frame is tinged with a passion almost as obsessive as the act of dancing itself.

cinematography of Ivan Strasburg sets a new standard for dance on film. Strasburg's lens is a ruthless voyeur, revealing — in the stretched throat of a 10-year-old first-year girl, or the trembling ankle of a ballerina performing a classroom *adagio* — the exaggerated strain that creates poetry from a distance. The dirty pointshoes of girls in rehearsals, the application of pre-performance makeup, a crystal droplet of sweat falling from a ballerina's chin as she stands in pose during *Swan Lake* — mundane, even ugly details gain significance under this camera's



Swan Lake, the Inside View. The camera glides on stage in the dancers' ranks in Backstage at the Kirov, making Kirov dancers of the audience.

DANNY BOY

(Continued from page 25)

gets close enough to White to kill him by wangling a job teaching him literature at Soledad.

One encounter with White proves to Rekow that his family was right: Revenge is evil disguised as justice. Killing Dan White would not diminish his evil, but would only generate a new one. Immediately following inscribing the above wisdom in his diary, a cop pushes Rekow's face against his desk and he dies. Irony.

Worse than wild improbability is the lack of dramatization of the process by which Rekow abandons his vengeful plan. After listening to Rekow's obsession with Dan White's death for over an hour, we're supposed to view Rekow's one meeting with White as sufficient exposure to cause Rekow to drop his murder plans completely. It's not enough.

Red herrings by which the cops discover Rekow's plan are well laid, and Bruce Mackey is an immediately recognizable police inspector. Mackey's portrayal is so subtly detailed we can write a biography of the character after only a few words; unfortunately, the other characterizations are not so clearly drawn.

Directors Rekow and Parr have allowed their male principals only two modes of speech: yelling or whispering. Line delivery is frequently out of sync with the sense of a scene, leading the audience down logical blind alleys. Rekow and Parsons are supposed to be lovers, but there's no more warmth between them than between Rekow and his neighbor. Their blocking negates not only relationship, but physical comfort as well.

Far more believable is the relationship between the nephew and his girlfriend (Pamela Minet). The scream/whisper approach is abandoned for a

careless.

The single disappointment is the lack of attention given to the Kirov's male dancers, which may have been the result of more than a simple traditional bias. Hart said that out of 30 hours of classroom footage, almost none taken of the men's classes was usable. It is interesting to speculate whether the Kirov is turning out lackluster male dancers since the death of Alexander Pushkin, the great men's teacher who trained both Nureyev and Baryshnikov. Those male dancers who did find their way on camera were merely adequate, while the women constitute the most perfect female corps in the world.

The ballet sequences are limited to the great white classic, *Swan Lake*, Act II, and in the film's innovative technique, the camera records the entire performance from the dancer's point

of view. Cinematographer Strasburg learned the staging of Act II and then occupied a position on stage during the performance, a feat made possible by the Kirov's willingness to close to the public for four days to allow filming in the theatre. Recorded from such unusual vantage points on the stage, one has the visual experience of being in the ballet.

No one need wonder why *Swan Lake* has remained popular for so long; Act II comes to life in this movie. What a thrill to watch the Act II pas de deux in these extreme close-ups, danced by the icy-perfect Galina Mezentseva and her attentive partner, Konstantin Zaklinsky. A sort of subplot in the film is the imminent rise of Zaklinsky's wife, Altynai Assylmuratova, to the role of Odette. She is seen rehearsing the pas de deux and finally performing it at her debut, bringing the documentary full circle and giving us, by this time, quite a complete exposure to Act II — and its pas de deux in particular.

It is hard to judge the extent to which this movie would appeal to a general audience, though the camerawork is so innovative that film buffs in general should find it quite interesting. For ballet fans, *Backstage at the Kirov* is the film we've all been waiting for; the ultimate use of the medium, showing us the things we can't see from our orchestra seats.

moment as Frank and Minet wrestle with Frank's choice about whether or not to turn his uncle in. Their scene is over only too soon.

Laura Santina's characterization of Rekow's Lutheran minister is likewise believable and well conceived, but her Christian point of view limits the universality of the play. It is a superfluous detour, a snag in the flow of ideas.

Dale Altvater's simple set and effective lighting designs move from street to office to bedroom with artistic efficiency and economy.

Oh, *Danny Boy* is not terrible, but it is terribly frustrating. The basic conflict of evil, revenge, and personal integrity is powerful, but both playwright and production stumble over the threshold between idea and realization.

B. Spunberg

Oh, Danny Boy
Julian Theatre
Through January 1; 647-5525

Tracy Nelson - Up So High Sylvia Sims - Sigh No More

by John F. Karr

I never miss a Tracy Nelson gig. Her yearly trek to San Francisco would make that inopportune. Sometimes, despite the pleasure of being cradled in her strong and pure flow of sound, I've been disappointed by her seeming lack of enthusiasm. That wasn't so in her date several months ago at Wolfgang's, to which she brought such vibrancy that I was steamed. She's always been a great singer, but she's gotten better; how exciting it was.

Nelson never discolored, distorted, Euro-teched, or postured like flashes Stevie Nicks, Deb-

rah Harry or Bonnie Tyler. She's always sang a mixture of rock/blues/country that suited her plangent yet burgundy sound. She still does what she always did, with an absolute mastery of skills. Her rhythmic complexities, decorative creativity, and sheer richness and strength of voice leave many years of pop divas in a distress of "let's be current and then forgotten." She's not making movies, selling jeans, or jumping on passing fancies. What a classic she's become.

I took Peaches Keane with me. He's the *Bay Area Reporter's* Rock writer, a hard to impress fan of progressive rock, intellectual punk, and other such



Tracy's Full Nelson on the Music. The winning voice of Tracy Nelson is coming back to Wolfgang's on December 30.

Woman of Funk and Feeling

by Sue Zemel

Singer Linda Tillery started her Sunday concert at the Great American Music Hall with a rendition of "Summertime" that in no uncertain terms took the chill off a cold night.

Tillery, a native San Franciscan who has been singing for the past 15 years, has a voice that is both big and sweet — it fills up a room and also finds its way right to the heart, a combination that few entertainers can pull off.

Joined by first-rate musicians Joy Jilkes on bass, Adrienne Torf on piano, Ray Obeido on guitar, William Kennedy on drums, and Larry Snyder on saxophone, Tillery demonstrated her versatility, performing gospel, rhythm and blues, 60's tunes, plus some new songs co-written by her good friends Obiedo and Teresa Trull.

Back from a two-month, 24-city tour with Torf, Tillery seemed at ease on stage, rapping with her receptive audience about her recent experiences on the road with much humor and warmth. She introduced one of the most powerful songs of the concert, "Steamroller Blues," as "an American folksong," noting that the labeling of musical traditions is often a political act. Tillery also addressed the sub-

ject of addition, performing a cleverly written, insightful tune in which she prays, "Oh Lord, save me from myself . . . don't lock me in the livingroom with Haagen Dazs and Lorna Doone."

Full of feeling and funky, Tillery's voice has impressive resonance and range — it literally climbed in Laura Nyro's "Up on the Roof," melted in Carole King's "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow," and subtly revealed the frustration and pain of being "the other woman" in "Secrets," the strongest Obiedo/Trull song. Her gestures and movement add a lot to her delivery — she is at home in her body and an engaging performer.

Four years ago Tillery recorded her first solo album with Olivia Records. She currently has plans to create a second album and is hard at work raising the money necessary to produce it herself. "I want my music to belong to no one but myself," says Tillery, "and all the people who love it."

Tillery ended her second set with "Woman," a beautiful and soulful song that she wrote about loving women, which reflects the quality of integrity she brings to all of her music. I look forward to hearing more from this talented woman.

aggressive torturings. His comment on this woman who stands up and sings? "She's so impulsive."

With a six-piece band — including a sax player (Terry Hank) butch, brawny, and basketed, who wailed on that sax and stole my heart with his bumps and grinds and syncopated riffs — plus backup girls, Tracy romped gleefully among her songs. "Come See About Me" and "Temptation Took Control of Me (and I Fell)" rocked out in funky new arrangements. "Down So Low" (she wrote it) had a smile and a fullness nearly unimaginable. "I've Got To Get Up and Walk Away" was a defiant lover's plaint and triumph.

The whole evening was a triumph for Tracy. Her awesome lower range flowed out with a mountain's calm and the brilliance of her top shimmered like newfound hope. She's on a roll and is having a wonderful time. If you've liked any women rock singers in the past several years, any of those multi-Grammy gobblers, and haven't heard Tracy, please go hear her — Wolfgang's has her back on December 30. Impress yourself.

* * *

Although I was looking forward to seeing her as much as the other reviewers, my reaction appears to be the lone dissent. Sylvia Sims was lovely at the Mocambo several years ago; aging, of course, but still able to Do It. Maybe I caught a bad show last week at the Venetian Room, but I squirmed in my seat.

Always carefully billed as an actress and a protege of Billie Holiday, Miss Sims doesn't so much act as identify with a song, deliver it sincerely and with comprehension. She does not assume a character. Her stylings are thoroughly traditional, and were, even when newer, not as progressive as Billie's; she's more of a supper club singer than the hype would have one think. But she's always been a very good supper club chanteuse — her warm sound, organic way of departing from melody, and ability to personalize a song (fact it, okay), giving her a deserved following.

I found her current condition severely compromising. She was so short of breath that phrasing, except in the briefest chunks, was impossible. Her range is so shortened that her musical stylings have lost most of their creativity, becoming exercises in

avoiding notes not reachable and disguising the fact. She has two volumes, soft and loud, the latter predominating, and her nasal brightness has increased to a grating hardness.

True, she's a professional, and charm and poise carried her through. But her *blancmange* approach gave each song the same contours. A Cole Porter medley of some six songs sounded like one as it distorted Porter's unique structures, emotional attitudes, and long-lined melodies into the same muzak-like girl jazz singer sweetness. So although her repertoire is a lovely bunch of well-chosen standards, little pleasure was provided, as she was unable to demonstrate why they had become standards.

A moment of the Sims of yore surfaced in "Someone to Light Up My Life" (Jobim, not Boone) and contemporary ballad or two were fine; as for *La Cage aux Folles* "I Am What I Am" as a finale — well, wasn't that the statement originally penned by the great American philosopher, Popeye?

I'm always looking for classic cabaret singers to introduce new audiences to the art. Miss Sims is no longer the one to do that. Several twenty-year-olds at the Valencia Rose can do it better.

Tracy Nelson returns to Wolfgang's for one night, December 30.

Sylvia Sims remains at the Venetian Room through December 25; 772-5000.

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BOOK RACK

Cashing In

Burning
by Jane Chambers
J H Press; \$6.95, paper
by Dianne Gregory



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Touches of Brilliance

Messer Rondo and Other Stories by Gay Men
Gay Men's Press; \$6.50, paper

by Tom Crossman

Like many short story collections, *Messer Rondo and Other Stories* is uneven in quality. There are moments of great sparkle but also times when the material is dull. This can be attributed to the fact that the talents involved are of varying statures, some prolific with a great deal of published work, others in print for the first time in this collection. Likewise, the material ranges from the fresh and original to the more mundane coming-out stories; stories well worth relating but easily compared to a large number of predecessors.

One of the best is David Rees' "At the Gym." Rees has many volumes of published work behind him as well as several literary awards to his credit, all of which seem to culminate in this finely-tuned short story. It concerns a middle-aged man who joins a gym and finds the benefits of his labor worthy enough to encourage many of his Gay friends to join as well. They do and soon a Gay subculture develops in the predominantly Straight gym. The Gay friends whisper asides to one another

and secretly critique the Straight bodies around them. As if in a contest, one of the Straights is soon deemed the epitome of manhood. "Pete was a dream come true." He had that "lazy, arrogant masculinity that some men whose work is physical and out of doors exude . . . They invariably sprawl rather than sit . . . legs wide apart, utterly relaxed, big hands idly dangling . . . In bed, you'd feel they would be as slow and lazy at first as they'd be about anything, but when roused, my God, what a superb fuck they would be."

Since it is assumed that Pete is Straight, the Gay friends can only admire him from distance. The story explores the adolescent concept that if you are in love with someone who cannot possibly be your lover, then the next best thing is to emulate them. Not unlike trying to be like your favorite movie star.

Another fine story is Chris Payne's "The Sighting." It deals with a Straight couple, Ted and Sheila. In Loch Ness hoping to sight the monster, Ted encounters a different kind of

— Sandra Scopettone

Chambers fan, you may want to try to fill in the gaps, imagining the characters on a stage, which is where they probably belong anyway. If you're not familiar with Chambers' work, read or see one of the plays which established her reputation before deciding whether you want to delve into the material the author herself put in a bottom drawer.



Playwright Jane Chambers is not quite as successful in the novelist's form; *Burning* reads like a bottom-drawer manuscript.

"monster" when he steps into the bushes to relieve himself. He encounters Gay lovers who stand up to his verbal disapproval. He stumbles back to Sheila in shock, unable to tell her what he's seen. Sheila thinks he has seen the Loch Ness monster. "The Sighting" is Chris Payne's first published work and displays an enormous talent.

Unfortunately, not all the stories included are as tightly written. The title story, for instance, concerns the plight of two school-aged boys who claim to be homosexuals in order to make a point in a class debate. They are so ostracized by their schoolmates that they run off to join the circus, which in this case is a large Gay Pride celebration.

The premise is nice but at 70 pages is far too long for a short story, yet its themes are not complex enough to justify calling it a novella.

Gay Men's Press in particular, and other Gay presses in general, are dedicated to publishing a large volume of Gay writing. This in itself is good but it sometimes seems they will publish anything with a Gay theme, regardless of its quality. *Messer Rondo and Other Stories* is a good example of this. It is, however, well worth a read for its occasional touches of brilliance.

Gay literature and "folk" festivals like the huge Gay masquerade balls in the 1920's and '30's in Harlem and Chicago are highlighted in the presentation. The rise of a Gay political movement is also examined including the first American homosexual rights organization in Chicago in 1924.

The show has been presented in cities across the U.S. and Canada, at colleges and during Gay celebrations. It can be seen at the Valencia Rose on Wednesday, December 28 at 8:30 PM, \$4; 863-3863.

Sliding into Modern Gays

The Making of the Modern Homosexual is a slide/sound lecture which details the history of American Gay men and their culture from the mid-19th century to the present. The sometimes humorous and sometimes poignant presentation traces the historical development of Gay identity formation in American urban centers and the growth of the corresponding cultural elements such as Gay friendship

networks, Gay bars, subcultural slang, camp humor, and Gay literature. With vivid visuals and period music, the audience is transported back in time to the streets of New York in the 1850's where Walt Whitman cruised and picked up other men and then through the previously hidden but colorful decades of our history down to the great Gay cultural explosion of the 1970's and '80's.

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SPORTS

TGWEDNESDAYNBL

JERRY R. DE YOUNG

Final Standings of '83

Now that each present has been feverishly unwrapped, and all the unlikely locations where sprigs of mistletoe were ensconced have become common knowledge, the time has arrived to break out of the chapstick, settle back in that new recliner, and catch up on what happened the last night of TGWNBL bowling for 1983.

December 14 was certainly an eventful evening at Park Bowl. The number of 600+ series achieved this season doubled from 3 to 6; Randy Peterson of the remarkable Japantown team won the third turkey of the winter season by bowling a strike in the 3rd, 6th and 9th frames of one game; Days of Our Lanes, Japantown Bowl, Park Bowl, Play With It, Ltd., Stallion Stampede, and Sweet Inspiration each won all 4 of its games; and the 200+ games total skyrocketed to 130. With bowling like this, it is not hard to see why the TGWNBL is becoming a legend in its own mind. (Well, it must start somewhere!)

In order to take your mind off the perplexing problem of how to tell your lover that you intend to return the extra-fluffy house slippers, here are some extra-high figures over which to muse: the achievements of our pace

setters for the 12/14, the 200+

R. Peterson (Jptnwn Bwl)	255
R. Mallin (PPLers)	235
G. Cassinelli (PWIL)	215
M. Garcia (PB)	213
L. Gundel (P-4)	209
D. Hobler (PB)	210
M. Brown (GS Mag.)	204
K. Ray (PPLers)	200

David Hobler's excellent

combination above qualifies him as the 4th member of the very, very exclusive 600+ club. Congratulations to Dave, who deserves it!

The league average exiting 1983 is 726, with the individual bowler average being 144. While enjoying each evening of bowling is of the utmost priority, improving our averages should run a very close second. Rededication to achieving these dual goals will certainly result in our league ending the Winter 1983/84 season with the highest league average ever, so let's shoot for no



The Animals Bowling Team (Photo: Rink)



The Park Bowl Bowling Team (Photo: Rink)

G.S.L. UPDATE

TOM VINDEED

More Awards!

After sweeping several awards at last year's Cable Car Awards Show, the Gay Softball League was honored with a "David" as the "Most Respected Sports Organization." It is without a doubt a richly deserved award for a group of athletes that contribute much to the progress of Gay sports. Mark Brown, newly appointed manager of the Kokpit, won as "Outstanding Sports Personality," adding a little more luster to the GSL's achievements.

The next meeting of the GSL will be January 7, 1984 at the home of the "fighting waitress's" Cafe Sn. Marcos at 12 noon. Those interested in joining must

ante up a \$100 nonrefundable deposit. Once again there are many topics to be discussed, so please be prompt.

The G.S.L. is honored as the "Most Respected Sports Organization" partly because of its Gifts for Seniors programs.

There still is time for you last minute shoppers to drop by "Christmas on Castro" for those great gift items they are offering.

Until 1/4/84, when we meet again on the lanes at Park Bowl, enjoy your holidays and remember that the only thing sweeter than a sweet man is the incredible Tavern Guild Wednesday Night Bowling League.

Our annual drive for "Gifts for Seniors" was a huge success once again. Very close to 300 gifts were collected as George Zepp, C.S.L. Commissioner, came through with 100 beautiful items. GSL Commissioner Bob Doccia called it a "labor of love" as he and the rest of the GSL board spent over six hours wrapping gifts. Congratulations to both leagues on another super job well done.

A joyous holiday to all! ■

WED. COMMUNITY BOWLING

MICHAEL HAGGETT

From Turkey Trot to Race for Place

I represented the Wednesday Community League at the Inter-Bowling league meeting reported on in the December 15 issue of the *Bay Area Reporter*. Before attending the meeting, questionnaires were distributed among league members. Their remarks indicated an overwhelming desire to organize a San Francisco Gay Bowling Association which would provide interleague competition and communication. Thanks to the efforts of those at the meeting—especially Mal Garcia for his initiative and leadership, Jerry DeYoung for his continued communications and Randy Peterson for getting Japantown Bowling Leagues involved—the first steps were taken to get the ball rolling and I think it's going to end up a 300 game for all involved. Results of the meeting can already be seen in improved lines of communication between the leagues. I know of some teams from the Wednesday Community League that will be going to a Gay Tournament in Stockton January 7, now that they are aware of its existence.

The Wednesday Community League keeps rolling to new heights of competence. Many bowlers have won gift certificates for turkeys and wine sets from Japantown Bowl for getting strikes in the proper frames. It is easy to see why our league does so well on these things since you have to get strikes in the 3rd, 6th, 9th frames to win. Unfortunately, some bowlers keep striking out although I've been told that they do end up taking turkeys home. Since my last report the following eleven bowlers bowled their first two hundred game of the season, giving us 28 individuals who have bowled at least one 200 game.

M. Wiebracht	223
T. Redding	216
T. Bergano	215
G. Anthony	212
B. Fritz	212
B. Johnson	212
M. Bulawit	203

E. Rhine	203
R. Dwilbee	201
B. Rogers	200
D. Wenzel	200

There are four weeks left of the first half of bowling and the race for first place is heating up. The standings below indicate that if one of a number of teams finish strong, they could take first. Stephen Ross Associates continues to hold down first place but their lead has dwindled in the past few weeks. Ever since the Mike's Ice Cream team got a sponsor, they have been bowling well. Could it be they love the cream? Other teams like the Pin Heads, Station Masters, and High Gear keep chipping away at the leaders.

Standings as of December 14, 1983

1. Stephen Ross Assoc.	31	13
2. Stud City	29	15
3. Mike's Ice Cream	28	16
4. Pin Heads	26	18
5. Station Masters	26	18
6. High Bear	25	19
7. Image Leather	25	19
8. Golden Gate MCC	24	20
9. Just Fun	23	21
10. Ballers	21	23
11. Brunswick Beauties	21	23
12. GGMCC II(Mxd Entnts)	21	23
13. The Mirage	21	17
14. Jug's Liquors	19	25
15. Warlocks	18	26
16. Gutten Girls	17	27
17. Pac. Area Fire Alarm	17	27

Bearing Cheer

As you know Christmas is traditionally a time of sharing; of helping those who need it, and returning the good will that is given to us during the year. In this spirit, the staff of The Bear would like to wish everyone the best for the holidays, and announce that all revenue received on Christmas Eve will be donated to the Shanti Foundation to help our stricken friends. Come to share a toast with the staff of The Bear and allow them to help those in our community who are truly in need of the Christmas spirit. Drop by before 6 PM, as The Bear will close then. ■

IMAGE LEATHER

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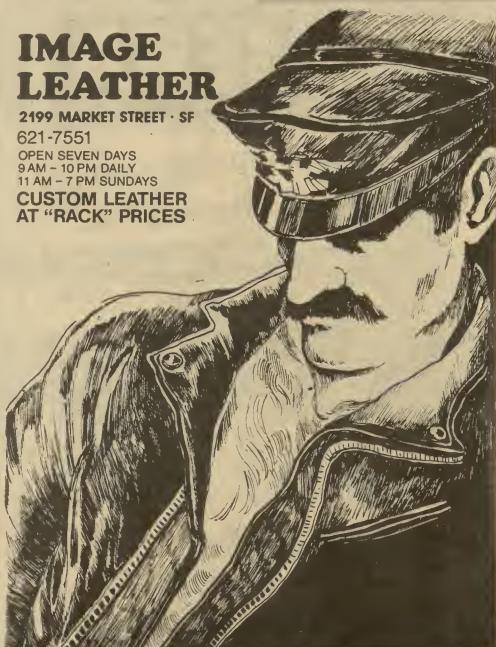
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RIVETS

Leather and Christmas?



TOM ROGERS

There's nothing more gratifying to me than a man with heavy musculature who wraps it up tight with animal hide — a man who first and foremost enjoys exaggerating the strength of his male beauty. As a reporter covering the leather attitude in San Francisco, I've seen a sophisticated chunk of this city's population that has at its heart sexual fantasies with an attendant philosophy and lifestyle which combine to maximize civilized masculinity. What starts out as "advocacy press" coverage on the front page becomes reality back here in the Bazaar section, where we reporters capture glimpses of the actuality of our movement: same-sex love.

Since I'm more or less compelled to report current events, however, there are some limitations — or at least potential obstacles — to relating current events and leather attitude. For example, this week we have your average Christmas column. Now I ask you: what does Christmas have to do with leather? Christmas is a fantasy about the birth of hope and leather is superficially about removing it. (How much hope can you have when you're chained to a dungeon wall?) Since Jesus, Joseph, and Mary are not exactly the *menage à trois* that makes me reach for my favorite lubricant, I discarded them as subjects of discussion in this column. Without them, I'm left with a choice between describing a hopeless tangle of picnics, parties, and balls, or a heavy-duty fantasy about what really makes Santa Claus tick.

The fact that Santa Claus wears all that red velvet and white fur would normally make me discard him as a discussion topic along with Jesus, Joseph, and Mary. (How many hot men do you know who are heavily into red velvet?) I decided, however, that some attention was warranted because of Santa's wide, black leather belt and calf-height black leather boots. Cracking that long bullwhip over the heads of all those reindeer doesn't do his image any harm either. He could afford to lose some weight, but the right attitude covers all manner of ills.

Actually, between his leather and the fact that he's always been palmed off as some kind of super-daddy, Santa Claus is a pretty interesting character. Who can ignore advance promo like "You'd better watch out; you'd better be good," and other clear orders attendant on making Santa's imminent arrival in town a pleasant experience instead of an all-around bummer. The rewards for heeding those warnings, of course, have provided millions of people special joy and considerable material gain at this time of the year. Alternative behavior, i.e. being naughty, brings nothing. Sounds just like any number of daddy-boy relationships.

Now I know some readers must be asking themselves a burning question. Like: "Is this guy serious?" They're justified. In spite of the millions that have been spent publicizing and otherwise promoting everything from Santa's very existence to an amazing list of gift ideas that he annually endorses with televised testimonials, most people insist upon dismissing him as a fanciful flight of someone's overactive imagination.

Some investigation on this writer's part, however, reveals that he is, or at least was, quite real. It's his name that has confused everybody. Santa Claus is a linguistic corruption of Sint Nicolaas, the Dutch name of Saint Nicholas of Myra, the patron saint of children. He made his reputation by secretly arranging dowries for three im-

what businessmen would otherwise have to work with for their Christmas effort, an alternative that would involve working with The Christian Version.

When the Christians came up with their version of the whys and wherefores of holiday gift giving they simply became too elaborate. Take as an example that aging ad that Hickory Farms pulls out and dusts off for television audiences every year immediately following Thanksgiving. It's very efficient. The set is one of their stores and the cast is Santa and a couple of unknown extras. He arrives on the scene in obvious haste to fill the last-minute requirements on his list. He's wearing his work clothes — that tired red suit — and the extras look as if they were costumed at Mervyn's. Contrast the cost effectiveness of that to the expense of producing a television commercial utilizing the Christian Version. First of all, the size of the required cast would match that of any Italian opera. There's Jesus, Joseph, and Mary, three wisemen, a bunch of shepherds, townspeople peering in the door, and



Arena Ups and Downs. The CMC held an open meeting last week under the bold, newly painted arrows decorating the Arena. (Photo: Rink)

poverished maidens. (Basing his reputation on that makes him immediately suspect of being an early prototype of Casanova, whose practice of palming off little gold balls as diaphragms to his victims secured him access to some very tight places. In Sint Nicolaas' case, however, the Vatican probably checked all that out before they extended him sainthood. On the other hand, the Vatican has been known to accept bribes.) At any rate, the Dutch, then the Germans, then the English, and finally the Americans took Sint Nicolaas' cue and began giving children gifts on December 6, the day of his saintly feast. Cost-efficient Americans gradually merged that practice with Christmas gift giving and sent December 6 packing.

Something else turned up as a result of my checking out Santa Claus. His daddy-like reliability has made him enormously popular among more than just children. Businessmen, especially Marketing and Advertising executives, apply themselves to maintain a smooth working relationship with him. Their companies help Santa Claus produce all those gifts, and in exchange he helps them promote what they make. The attractiveness of this arrangement is easily understood — especially when contrasted to

a barnful of smelly animals. Even trading off the wisemen's camels and the shepherds' sheep for Santa's reindeer, the production's film crew would still have to be fully qualified animal trainers. Casting would be a nightmare for another reason. To appeal to today's sophisticated audiences, advertising executives know that authenticity is a must. Take the Three Wisemen, for example. It's doubtful that three wise men exist in all of the Middle East. Even if three of them were to be found, it's doubtful that they could be trusted to work together. A standby bomb squad would be a must. Other increased costs, like costuming, would also be prohibitive. Considering these problems, it's not difficult to understand why Santa Claus is the preferred choice.

As is true of most super-stars, Santa has many imitators. Sorting them from the real thing can be a trying task, not unlike sorting out real leathermen. I conducted a search all over town without getting so much as a glimpse of him. In the process of making that search, however, I did discover a lot of general enthusiasm for Christmas.

Special holiday decorations have been added in several businesses that reveal how much creative talent is at work in the leather community. Unique designs in some of the bars height-

(Continued on next page)



A Bearly Merry Christmas to Leather Lovers Everywhere!
(Leather Teddy: Mr. Red)
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

(Continued from previous page)

en their normal party atmosphere and to some extent reflect both the identity of each bar and its degree of enthusiasm for the season. Check out the Brig for its sophistication, the SF Eagle for its scale and polish, Chaps for its charity, the Arena for its pie-in-the-sky bounty, and the Rawhide for its country warmth. (The Rawhide's bartenders have thrown themselves into the decorating scheme by trading in their hats for Santa-style caps.)

Since I was unable to locate Santa Claus in any of those places, there was no way to discuss with him such burning issues as what he thinks of leather or whether all those elves he keeps up North are secretly a stable of disguised munchkin slaves. Besides, he's not known to grant frivolous interviews, and an interview with me would be little more than frivolous. He is reputed to accept letters, and although he doesn't write back, he responds with appropriate rewards. It's been established

that the rewards are greater if one uses the following format: name and other identifying information; list of good deeds performed during the past year, and reward desired. For example:

Dear Santa:

We are a huge cadre of homosexual men who actively and consistently promote and enjoy the experience of being men in love with the male role. We are distinguished from our other homosexual brothers by our symbolic clothing, which is primarily made of black leather. We are known, in fact, as the Leather Community here in San Francisco.

During the past year we have provided an example of leadership to our brothers by sharing our wealth and compassionate love with an ever-growing number of our brothers who have become afflicted with an often fatal disease known as AIDS. We have spent countless hours in meetings to organize everything from providing basic requirements of AIDS patients (such as housing and food), to providing funds for medical research and counseling services that we hope will save lives. Although individual commitment to helping out in these efforts varies from one man to the next, our

collective commitment has been very strong.

The reward we seek is success at eradicating this disease from our population, or at least halting its spread. If nothing else, we'd be happy for increased wealth, improved health, and ever-stronger bonds of love among those in our brotherhood to help us conquer this disease ourselves.

Thanking you in advance, we remain

Sincerely yours,
The Leather Community

* * *

CLUB WATCH

The Cycle Runners, says Bill Wood, are coming back from dormancy to action on the local scene. Wood, who resigned from the Border Riders a while back, along with five others, is hammering out organizational details currently. Wood's status as President of The Forum, by the way, is being maintained, in spite of his advanced age. (He celebrated number thirty-plus plus on December 20.)

The Presidents of the MC's gave their annual bash at 10 Rogers Place (M&M Productions Pavilion). Attended by a few hundred clubbers and friends of clubs, the invitation-only event very effectively kicked off the Christmas season So/M. Plenty of booze, food, and brotherhood, spiced with lots of Christmas spirit, seem to have set the pace for the other Christmas parties that have been held since.

PLUGS

Congratulations to Tony Chiumento, designer of the winning logo design concept picked at Chaps Sunday evening. Selected from more than forty entries, Chiumento's design incorporates lacing found on most chap belts (backside) to block letters spelling Chaps.

BIKE WATCH

A special holiday reminder. If you're gonna be drinking, don't ride. And if you do plan to ride, wear your helmet and observe every safety rule you ever heard promoted. Motorists are real killers this time of year. ■

T. Rogers

Karl's Calendar

Thursday, 12/22: Gay Marching Band, Chaps, 9:30pm; admission \$1.

Birthday. John Kissinger (owner). Febe. 8, 9pm.

Christmas Party. Stables, 9pm-2am; drink specials, hot hors d'oeuvres, surprises.

Friday, 12/23: IC Tim. Febe. 8, 8pm; food and fun.

IC Remy. Castro Area walk from Men's Room, 8pm.

Saturday, 12/24: Gay Men's Chorus Concert. Nourse Auditorium, 7:30pm, \$6-8-10 (tickets: Headlines and STBS).

Dinner for Ward 5B. Chaps; contributions at bar.

Sunday, 12/25: Senior Dinner. Trinity Church, 12-4pm.

Christmas Party. The Calderon, 10pm, \$4; punch and fun.

Monday, 12/26: IC Remy. Polk Area walk from The Gangway, 8pm.

Tuesday, 12/27: IC Rich Carle. Hob Nob, 7-9pm.

IC Tim. Tenderloin Area walk from the Kokpit, 8pm.

IC Remy. Tenderloin Area walk from Ginger's, 8pm.

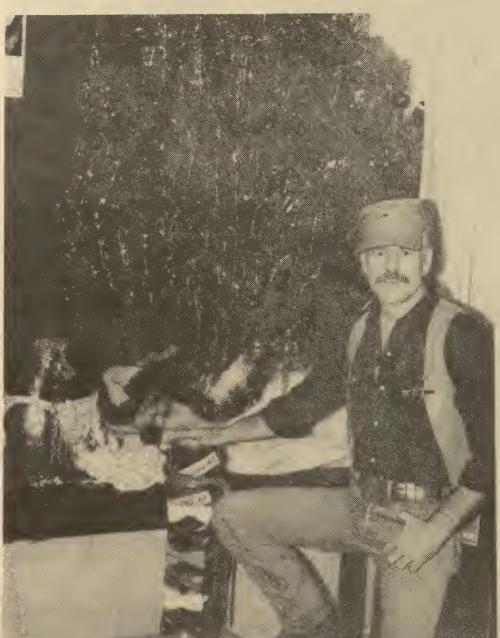
IC Sissy. Febe's, 8pm.

Wednesday, 12/28: All Candidates Night. Ramrod, 9pm; So/M tour to follow.

IC Margo Moore. Febe's, 9:30pm; hostesses: The Balloon Girls.

Thursday, 12/29: IC's Rich Carle & Remy. Ramrod, 9-11pm; live show +, MC's: Marlene & Karl. ■

K. Stewart



Leathermen's Loot. A variety of leather-pegged gift items are available at Mr. S Products, like mistletoe decorated briefs, leather bowties in various colors, and the high-tech tit clamps modeled by salesman Jim, who'd make a swell gift item himself. (Photo: Rink)

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KARRNAL KNOWLEDGE

Video Rage

KARR

A year ago I gave the PM Productions film *Sleaze* bad review and blithely sent it to their New York office. To my surprise, the film's director wrote back, explaining a point or two, defending another, and thoughtfully including a Polaroid snapshot of Daniel Holt. I'd seen the new star, and coveted all that was his, for the first time in *Sleaze*, but didn't know his name. In my review I called him "BH&H" for Black Hair and Hung; the former a personal fetish, the latter an ac-

cident of genetics worthy of critical notice.

It was unusual to have such contact with a director, especially one thoughtful enough to send a peace offering of the piece that gorged my glans. So I remembered the director for his Polaroid and his epistle, as well as his provocative *nom de porno*, Christopher Rage.

I met Mr. Rage in New York last month, and even in his well-tailored, three-piece business suit — he came to meet me directly from his office — he gave off the leering scent of sleaze that is his trademark. We saw a show and dined at Barrymore's, a theatrical hangout, whose premises were uneasily swept by Rage's hungry gaze like the beam of a lighthouse devouring the ocean. Rage originally came to New York to be an actor; I don't think he looked at me once during dinner, his eyes as hungry for contact with working professionals as his stomach was for Barrymore's snappy chili.

No matter; I looked at him. Rage is a fascinating man, his face conveying forbidden desires, his eyes a lifeless mask until he chooses to reveal their power. Then they're hypnotizing, with a stillness and intensity that would recall Bela Lugosi were it not for their carnality. I'm not sure what Rage does in the "real" world, but everything about him says his presence in the night world of sexual desire is his truest home. Maeterlinck wrote that "What is permitted teaches us nothing." Rage's attitude promises to teach what is not permitted.

He had a long apprenticeship in the erotic film world, an amorous liaison introducing him to Arch Brown, who in turn led Rage to Jack Deveau. Deveau had a string of hits which paralleled the success of his West Coast competitor, Bill Higgins. More than a country separated them, though. Deveau's depiction of rough urban proulers — their cock-ringed, face-splitting, fist fucking, compulsive, unsatisfying sex consummated in alleys and subways

— was a far cry and a long moan from Higgins' hygienic, straightforward suburban suck-and-fucks.

Rage learned all aspects of the craft from Deveau, even made his drag debut as the crazed Arachne in *Drive*, when Lynn Carter proved unavailable. Making his own films, Rage has retained the sleazy, netherworld impact of Deveau's better efforts, while jettisoning the more questionable or excessive sex acts. At his best, Rage is able to suggest that his actors do things you hardly dare to imagine, but I don't remember seeing anything more than sucking and fucking.

It's all in his attitude. When he conveys his own high-powered lechery and worshipful approach to his actors, or works with similar personalities like Scorpio, John "Slave" Wilson or Casey Donovan, the result is dynamite — as are many of the scenes in the *Rage* sampler I previewed, a video called *Best of the Superstars*.

Sleaze is to Rage what *Sweet Charity* was to Fosse — first time out, ideas there but short-circuited by lack of technique. Rage's subsequent work is his Cabaret; there aren't any songs



Gays Over Forty. Casey Donovan looks better and better as he goes past the forty-year mark.

for the medium, I'm sure it will quickly become a widespread practice. And since video editing is more difficult than film editing, Rage offers longer takes. He puts his camera in the right place, zooms in, and holds. What a relief from the jittery cinematography and nervous editing of so many other films.

Best of the Superstars is an 85-minute condensation of scenes from Rage's first three direct-to-video features, *Solojerk* and *Superstars*, Part One and Part Two.

I could go on for pages about the glories of several segments of B.O.T.S., particularly the amusing *Donovan/Scorpio* opener, but as I've gone on for pages already, I'll hold back.

Solojerk is self-descriptive, and from it B.O.T.S. has sequence segments by the always superb Scott Taylor, Richard Locke, and filmmaker Rage himself. Also included from *Superstars*, Part Two are welcome and unusual-for-porno appearances by non-Whites.



Scott Taylor

Eddie is a strikingly beautiful Latin, and Jed Black is a sleekly masculine Black.

Edie lacks screen presence and onanistic creativity, but he's so fuckin' gorgeous and his dick such a club that his brief scene is pleasurable to watch. Jed Black has a finely muscled body, handsome face with full features, and a full hand to work with.

Separating these tidbits are fuller scenes from *Superstars*, Part One. In one, George Payne (back up to his high standard of beauty after a bout of ill health) and Lee Marlin are thieves who rob John "Slave" Wilson before taking full advantage of his bound hands and slavishly compliant nature. Payne appears without his pubic hair; Marlin without an erection.

Wilson is a great cocksucker and has a great one to suck with Payne, who also fucks him. Marlin finally gets hard and throws Wilson an eye-opener fuck. The panoramic view provided by Wilson's ability to fold his legs down alongside his body are spectacular.

Scorpio has a duet with Philip Demato. Narrator Rage confides they were lovers during the filming; "see if you can't see all the passion." You can; you can. Demato has black Italian hair and thickly matted black body hair. He and Scorpio make love slowly, with savory depth, worshipping at the sex altar. A scherzo follows this adagio as Scorpio pounds Demato's hairy ass before jacking off to climax, his balls tightly clenched in Demato's unmerciful grasp.

Richard Locke's solo is not his best, and could have been deleted to allow for more of the



The Opener is Almost the Ender. Casey Donovan and Scorpio are so hot in the first segment of Best of the Superstars that you'll either be finished or need a break before continuing the video.

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astounding Scorpio and Casey Donovan match which opens the program. I've watched bug-eyed with amazement as these two professional sensualists make love that sizzles out of the TV screen. Their 20 minutes is hypnotic, their technique transcendent. They'll please aficionados of every sexual scene — they jack off together, rim with the ecstasy of wine tasters, fuck each other with fury, suck cock with serene appreciation, pull nipples nearly off the body, and cradle in each other's arms like a male "Pieta." Donovan does not age, and at somewhat past 40 is looking wonderful. Scorpio's Tartar beauty, almond eyes, and upstanding cock are captured at their best.

Even better is the reality of the scene, conveyed by the matching of two titans and by Donovan's nearly unceasing dirty talk. At first, it sounds comical, but becomes a whispered litany, a song of insistent sex. "Two buddies pulling on their cocks . . . fucking beautiful; lick those hot shaved nuts, just filling up with juice for your throat; work that ass, grind that hole right up into my tongue; the hotter you work those tits the harder that dick is gonna get in that hot hole; I'm gonna watch you pull that fuckin' big load of hot fuck juice out of that fuckin' dick;" and so on, until he asks Scorpio, "Will you pop your load with me?"

Yes! Yes! I shouted at my television.

And did.

The final scene is Rage himself. He's almost as hot as the opener. He's sleaze personified — unshaven, wearing a dirty jock, staring directly at us, jacking off while delivering a nonstop dick monologue from leering lips, lust slipping up and down between his fingers. Like

Pumps

By Dug Figley



Santa's Little Helpers

Gower Champion, who always had one gimmick up his sleeve for the finale, Rage does too. His is a dildo, which slips up his ass inch by inch. "Ooh, that's tight," he moans. Worked all the way in, his excitement mounts. "Here we go . . . we're gonna cum."

We do.

"Like I said," he finishes, "my name is Christopher Rage and I made this for you."

Thank you, Mr. Rage. ■

Karr

Christopher Rage's Best of the Superstars, as well as his other videos, is available from Video Company of America, 2051 Pontius Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025; toll free: 800-421-2386.

B.A.R. Writers On 1984 Cable Cars

Three Bay Area Reporter writers will have important roles in the 1984 Cable Car Awards & Show. John F. Karr is in charge of the newly formed Theatre Critics Committee, Jerry DeGracia will head the Recording Committee and Allen White is Media Advisor to the Board of Directors.

John Karr, Entertainment Editor of the Bay Area Reporter, will head a new critics committee. Comprised of entertainment writers in the area Gay press, the committee will determine the nominees in the category of Outstanding Achievement in Theatre and the category of Outstanding Cabaret Entertainment.

served seats are priced at \$15 and \$20 with balcony unreserved seats selling for \$10. Tickets for the event will go on public sale January 5 at Headlines, Polk and Castro Street stores. ■

For the third year, B.A.R. columnist Jerry DeGracia will coordinate the Recording Committee. The committee is charged with selecting the nominees in the Outstanding Club Recording category and for the Outstanding Contribution by a Recording Artist.

For the fourth year, Bay Area Reporter writer Allen White is the Media Advisor for the Cable Car Awards & Show. He coordinates all press relations for the presentation.

The tenth annual Cable Car Awards & Show will be presented Saturday, February 4 at the Japan Center Theatre starting at 8:00 PM. Main floor re-

Hi, Moms

Moms is Whopi Goldberg's one-woman show using the comedy material of Moms Mabley. It will be presented Thursday, December 22 at 8 PM and Friday, December 23 at 8 and 10 PM at the Valencia Rose. \$6; 863-3863. ■



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DICK WALTERS

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Bill Wright of the Nothing Special says there is a gorgeously decorated bar downtown with a sign in the window that states, "Bella did not decorate."

Incidentally, Bella, you did a magnificent job on the Christmas decor at Googie's. It is always a pleasure to watch you use that staple gun and ribbon . . . have a nice time in Los Angeles.

Kenny Allison, manager of the NEW Kokpit, and yours truly are now uncles . . . his brother and sister-in-law gave birth to a baby girl last Friday and have named her Freedom . . . what do we have to send, Kenny?

Remember to start planning where you are going to be on New Year's Eve and don't drive if you are drinking . . . a cab is cheaper in the long run.

Welcome home, Keith and Scot, after three weeks in Maui . . . your tans look terrific.

Totie, Seaman Russ, Boo, Roy, Teddy, and a host of others are due back this week after cruising to Acapulco for two weeks . . . bet they had a blast or two!

The Gate now has David Burton, formerly of Burton's, working nights, Fridays through Mondays, with the debonaire Rene Rodriguez on the other three nights, so drop in and say hi to these two guys.

Bill Ward, a great pianist, will be doing three stints at the popular Mint on Market Street, Mondays through Wednesdays, starting next week.

Photo/Poster Rules for Cable Car Awards

Entry procedures have been announced for the three visual arts categories for the 1984 Cable Car Awards. The three awards areas are: Outstanding Photo Journalism, Outstanding Poster Design and Outstanding Photo Art.

This will be the fourth year for the category of photo journalism. The purpose is to honor Gay and Lesbian news photographers for their work. To qualify, a photo must have appeared in a regularly distributed publication in the calendar year 1983.

Christmas Performance

The Noh Oratorio Society presents *Live or Die*: sights and sounds to pull in the brave new world.

e.e. cummings' play Santa Claus will be performed; art will be shown; poetry of Thomas Merton, Anne Sexton, Edith Sitwell and Ruth Weiss will be read; and slightly altered Christmas carols, accompanied on clarinets and recorders will bind together this farrago of

All photos submitted must be 8x10 in size and should provide the title of the photo and the name and address of the photographer. Entries in the Photo Journalism category must also contain the name of the publication and the publication date. To assure fairness, only the title of the photo is shown while voting is in process. As the Cable

A new category to be added is Outstanding Photo Art. The purpose is to acknowledge Lesbian and Gay photographers in the Bay Area. There is no restriction regarding prior presentation of the image.

words, pictures and drama. The state of the planet is the common theme, and the first performance will benefit *Defuser*, an organization "dedicated to rock and roll and the elimination of nuclear weapons," and its foster child the *World Suicide Club*.

Performances are at 8 PM, Friday and Saturday, December 23-24 and 30-31 at the Valencia Rose. Admission: \$5; 863-3863.

Car Awards show begins and voting closes, the name of the photographer is displayed.

There will be one category for Outstanding Poster Design. Posters may be for any event presented in the year 1983. Posters may be of any size.

In all photo and poster categories, the work should be submitted unframed.

Posters and photos are reviewed by a committee of the Cable Car Awards and the final nomination is made by the Cable Car Award Board of Directors. The final selection of a winner will be made by the public attending the awards show with announcement that evening.

Entries should be submitted to: 1406 Valencia Street, San Francisco prior to Thursday, January 5, 1984 at 5:00 PM. For further information contact Susan Ramsey (285-7706) or Hector Caceres (626-9081).

The 1984 Cable Car Awards & Show will be presented Saturday, February 4, 1984 at the Japan Center Theatre. Doors open at 7 with the show beginning at 8. Tickets go on sale to the public at Headlines on Thursday, January 5.

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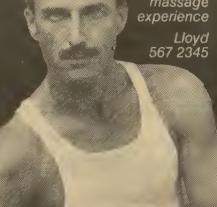
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**Offices Closed Monday, December 26 & Monday, January 2
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With muscled chest, arms & ass.
Big stud meat into foot and body
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Inside massage: FF top expert,
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\$100 min, SF out calls only, call
back required, Karl 621-1066 aft
7p Visa/MC E52

Service my thick cowpoker. Rock-
hard. 24 hours. Dick 548-0842
E51

\$50 - hot top, uncut, hung big,
rear fr expert, 558-8535 E51

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Billy 567-5244 E51

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The Best E51

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X-THICK ★ LONG
Young stud with big balls and u/c
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All you need for a fine time - in
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E51

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... hung like a stallion. Mario,
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Tall blk. husky hung stud for masc/
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PAUL MUSCLEMAN
50"c, 31"w, 19"a, 928-0135
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Smooth swimmer's build, 20,
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avail. Randy 655-0133 E51

BLONDE BEACH BUM
Norwegian Stud

Hung, Very Handsome,
Bodybuilder. W/M, 6',
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Watch 2 super hung handsome
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Super Hung Thick
Handsome \$75
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E51

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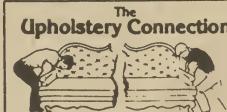
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Classified ORDER FORM

Deadline for each Thursday's paper is NOON MONDAY.

Payment MUST accompany ad.

No ads taken over the phone.

If you have a question, call (415) 861-5019.

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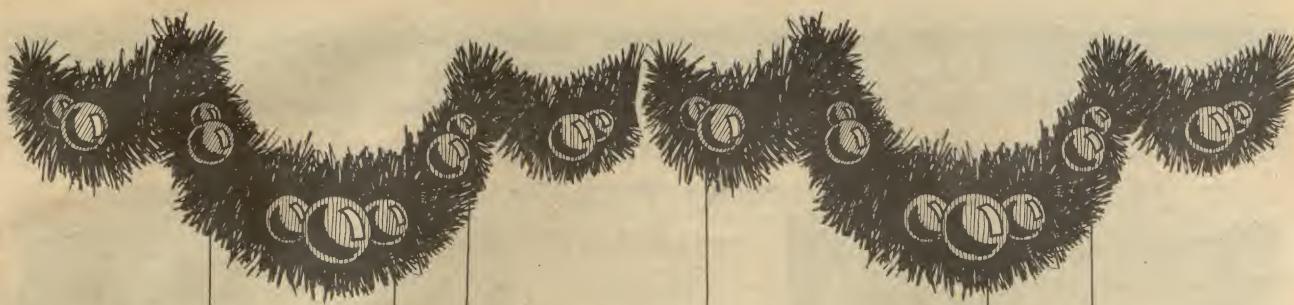
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Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

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Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo



Thank you all so much for your continued support.
We wish you the best during this holiday season,
and may the New Year bring you
PEACE, LOVE and JOY.

Sincerely,
The Luna Family